**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Characterization of APOBEC3 variation in a population of HIV-1 infected individuals in northern South Africa

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We thank the editors and reviewers for pointing out the editorial changes that need to be made, all of which have now been addressed.

Reviewers comments: Both reviewers found the manuscript acceptable in its present form so no changes have been made as a result of their comments.

Editors Comments:

1) Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page.
   
   Response: All email addresses now appear on the first page. (Prof. Bessong’s was actually there before in the correspondence section)

2) Please clarify whether any minors (16+) were included in the patient sample in the methods section of your manuscript. If so, please clarify in the Ethics approval and consent to
participate section whether consent was obtained from a parent or guardian on behalf of any participants under the age of 16.

Response: We have amended the informed consent portion of the Ethics Section (p22-23) to read: “Informed consent was obtained from all study participants prior to demographic and clinical data collection, and blood draw. Consent was obtained from a parent or guardian on behalf of participants under the age of 16.

3) In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: We have added the following sentence at the end of the “Funding” section (p21). “In all cases, the funders had no role in study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of data, or in the writing of the manuscript and decision to submit it for publication.”

4) Please also add a section “Supplementary files” where you list the following information about your supplementary material: Filename, Title of data, Description of data

Response: We have added this information in a new section entitled Supplementary files (p23).

We hope that the manuscript can now be accepted for publication. Thank you for your attention to this matter.