Author's response to reviews

Title: A Retrospective cohort study of factors relating to the longitudinal change in birth weight

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors,

Thank you for continuing to consider my manuscript, “A Retrospective cohort study of factors relating to the longitudinal change in birth weight.” We have received the reports of the reviewers and have made changes to our manuscript based on their comments. We are submitting our revised manuscript and have included below our detailed responses to their comments.

The manuscript has not been and will not be submitted to any other journal while it is under consideration by BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. It was accepted and presented as a poster presentation at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation 58th Annual Scientific Meeting, March 16-19, 2011 Miami Beach FL. There are no other prior publications or submissions with any overlapping information, including studies and patients.

We continue to feel this manuscript would be of interest to readers of BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth as it deals with the timely issues of birth weight and fetal adiposity. Given the changing demographics in the obstetric population as well as the evolving understanding of how the in utero environment impacts childhood and adult health, we believe our results will further the understanding in the field and be hypothesis generating for other researchers and clinicians. We feel this article is suited to the wide, international readership of BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

This research is the product of all four authors. I, Kelly S Gibson, MD, collected the data, performed the initial analysis, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Dr. Waters assisted in study design, the initial analysis, and portions of the manuscript. Dr. Gunzler performed the secondary and advanced statistical analysis and critically reviewed the manuscript. Dr. Catalano provided guidance on the study design, assisted in data interpretation, and has critically reviewed the manuscript.

No honorarium, grant, or other form of payment was given to anyone to produce the manuscript. Each author listed on the manuscript has seen and approved the submission of this version of the manuscript and takes full responsibility for the manuscript. None of the authors report any conflicts of interest, specifically no conflicts of interest regarding the study design;
the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; the writing of the report; or the decision to submit the paper for publication.

This project was approved by the MetroHealth System Institutional Review Board as protocol IRB10-00426 on 06/08/2010, and it is still currently approved.

Thank you again for your consideration,

Kelly S. Gibson, MD
Response to Editor’s Comments:

1. When stating ethical approval, please provide the full name of the IRB
   Added the name of the hospital to Page 5, Lines 81-82: “This study was reviewed and approved by The MetroHealth System Institutional Review Board.”

2. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants’ parents and clearly state this in your manuscript. If the need for parental consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.
   We clarified that the study was an IRB expedited review. Page 5, Lines 82-83: “As the study was on de-identified data from a departmental database, it received a waiver of HIPPA and informed consent under an expedited review.”

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