Author's response to reviews

Title: Maternal cortisol and stress are associated with birth outcomes, but are not affected by lipid-based nutrient supplements during pregnancy: an analysis of data from a randomized controlled trial in rural Malawi

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Dear editor,

We have made minor revisions to our manuscript based on the suggestions below.

1. Please can you remove the marked copy of the manuscript from additional files.
   We will remove it.

2. We notice you recruited participants from four hospitals. Please give the full names of all of the ethics committees that approved your study at these sites. Or please clarify if the three ethics committees you have mentioned gave approval for all sites.
   Ethical approval for all hospitals and health facilities was obtained by the College of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee at the University of Malawi and the Ethics Committee of Pirkanmaa Hospital District. We have added a clause to the methods (line 200) to indicate that these IRBs reviewed the protocols for all hospitals and health facilities.

3. In the Methods section please state the age range of the participants.
   We could not find a good place in the methods to state the range. So, we have reported it in the first paragraph of the results (Line 255). Mean (SD) age of women by group has also been reported in Table 1.

Many thanks for the opportunity to revise and resubmit.
Best regards,
Christine Stewart