Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluating severity of neonatal jaundice using a modified bilirubin-induced neurologic dysfunction (BIND-M) score in a resource-limited setting

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Dear Editor-in-Chief:

All the authors unanimously agree to submit the manuscript for publication in BMC Pediatrics. All the authors of the manuscript have read and agreed to its content. We are accountable for all aspects of the accuracy and integrity of the manuscript in accordance with ICMJE criteria. We hereby confirm that readily reproducible materials described in the manuscript will be freely available to any scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes. I affirm institutional approval before the research was commenced. There was no human or animal experimentation involved.

I also hereby confirm that the manuscript is original, has not already been published in a journal and is not currently under consideration by another journal.

There are many reasons for choosing to publish our manuscript in BMC Pediatrics. Our reasons include:

1. The fact it is an open access, peer-reviewed journal that considers articles Pediatrics and related subspecilities. Our subject of study is within scope of neonatology; and it is of particularly relevant to the practice of neonatology in many resource-limited counties. The subject of severe hyperbilirubinemia, acute bilirubin encephalopathy and consequence brain damage is of immense importance as its persistence largely depends on the social determinants of health which include poverty, the environmental, behavioral, and occupational correlates driven by ignorance. Although severe hyperbilirubinemia is major cause neonatal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria, community-based data on it are non-existence. We believe that the instrument being developed will be a mean of achieving this.

2. BMC Pediatrics being an open access journal will make the information readily available to a large population of researcher, including those working in the
developing countries.

3. Being a peer-reviewed journal, BMC Pediatrics ensures that it publishes high quality articles to which we believe our manuscript belongs.