Author’s response to reviews

Title: Alberta Provincial Pediatric EnTeric Infection TEam (APPETITE): epidemiology, emerging organisms, and economics

Authors:

Stephen B Freedman (stephen.freedman@albertahealthservices.ca)
Bonita Lee (bonita.lee@albertahealthservices.ca)
Marie Louie (marie.louie@albertahealthservices.ca)
Xiao-Li Pang (xiao-li.pang@albertahealthservices.ca)
Samina Ali (sali@ualberta.ca)
Andy Chuck (achuck@ihe.ca)
Linda Chui (linda.chui@albertahealthservices.ca)
Gillian Currie (currie@ucalgary.ca)
James Dickinson (dickinsj@ucalgary.ca)
Steve Drews (steven.drews@albertahealthservices.ca)
Mohamed Eltorki (mohamed.eltorki@albertahealthservices.ca)
Tim Graham (tim.graham@albertahealthservices.ca)
Jason Jiang (jason.jiang@cchmc.org)
David Johnson (david.johnson@albertahealthservices.ca)
James Kellner (jim.kellner@albertahealthservices.ca)
Martin Lavoie (martin.lavoie@gov.ab.ca)
Judy MacDonald (judy.macdonald@albertahealthservices.ca)
Shannon MacDonald (smacdon@ualberta.ca)
Larry Svenson (larry.svenson@gov.ab.ca)
James Talbot (james.talbot@gov.ab.ca)
Phillip Tarr (tarr@kids.wustl.edu)
Raymond Tellier (raymond.tellier@albertahealthservices.ca)
Otto G Vanderkooi (otto.vanderkooi@albertahealthservices.ca)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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Dear BMC Pediatrics Editorial Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your queries. We have addressed each question on a point by point basis and would appreciate that the review proceed expeditiously at this point given the delay to date. Once again, thank you for considering our protocol for publication in BMC Pediatrics.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Stephen Freedman, MDCM, MSc, FAAP, FRCPC
Alberta Children’s Hospital
Sections of Paediatric Emergency Medicine and Gastroenterology
University of Calgary
Calgary, AB, Canada
T3B 6A8
Tel: 403-955-7740
Fax: 403-955-7552

Comments
As you may be aware, it is the policy of the journal not to peer review study protocols where ethical and external funding approval have been obtained, as these processes usually involve peer review and as there is little possibility to change a protocol after enrolment begins. Therefore, could you please respond to the following points below and provide the requested responses in your cover letter.

1. **Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation:** Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records? These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email address, BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.
   a. We have forwarded the following documents:
      i. Ethics approval
      ii. Funding approval
2. A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board. Can you please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.
   a. Our study is externally funded by a major funding body (Alberta Innovates Health Solutions). This is a governmental funding body (http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca) with no commercial connections and the protocol has gone through extensive peer-review; initially a letter of intent followed by review of the full protocol followed by a reverse site visit including in-person interrogation in front of an expert panel.

3. **Study status:** The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An ‘ongoing’ study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.
   a. We are currently in year #1 of a 4 year patient and data recruitment plan, so yes, the study is ‘ongoing’.

4. **Related Articles:** Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles?
   a. No related publications containing any results of this study have been submitted to a journal or published.

5. **Line Numbering:** Please revise your manuscript to include line and page numbers.
   a. Done.

6. Please ensure that the proofs requested will be sent by email and ensure that these sensitive documents are removed from the additional files. Further to this, please include an ethics statement on the manuscript and it must appear in the Methods section of the submission. For more information, please see IforA (http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcpediatr/authors/instructions/studyprotocol).
   a. Ethics approval is mentioned in line 522.