Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of play-based family-centered psychomotor/psychosocial stimulation on the development of severely acutely malnourished children under six in a low-income setting: a randomized controlled trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

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20 August 2019
Dr. Brock Madson

Editor of ‘BMC Pediatrics’

RE: BPED-D-18-00348R2 “Effect of play-based family-centered psychomotor/psychosocial stimulation on the development of severely acutely malnourished children under six in a low-income setting: a randomized controlled trial”

Teklu Gemechu Abessa, Berhanu Nigussie Worku, Mekitie Wondafrash, Tsinuel Girma, Johan Valy, Johan Lemmens, Liesbeth Bruckers, Patrick Kolsteren and Marita Granitzer

Dear Dr.Brock Madson,

In your e-mail communication on 20 August 2019, you have offered us a possibility to reconsider our revised manuscript once we address issues raised by you as an editor. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to you and the reviewer for the very constructive comments and suggestions for further improvement of our manuscript entitled “Effect of play-based family-centered psychomotor/psychosocial stimulation on the development of severely acutely malnourished children under six in a low-income setting: a randomized controlled trial (BPED-D-18-004348R2)’.

Following your request, we have outlined in this letter each of the (point by point) changes made based on the given comments. We have included a ‘clean’ copy of our revised manuscript, and attached all relevant supplementary files as per your suggestion.

We sincerely thank you for this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you regarding our submission. We would be glad to respond to any further questions and comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

Teklu Gemechu Abessa

On behalf of all authors.
Editor’s comments:

1. Please provide one reliable email address for the corresponding author on the title page of the manuscript. Please ensure this email address is consistent with the email address provided in the submission data on the editorial manager.

Authors’ reply: We have dropped other email addresses and retained teklugem@yahoo.com as a reliable email address of the corresponding author. This change has also been made to the email address on editorial manager.

2. Currently we cannot open files S1 Manual and S1 Dataset as these are not in one of our acceptable file formats. To ensure there is no identifiable information contained in the file please re-submit the data in one of our acceptable formats. Tabular data can be provided in formats including: DAT, TXT, XLS, CSV, XML and TSV.

Authors’ reply: We have now submitted the S1Manual in TXT format, and the S1Dataset in CSV format.

3. At this point please remove the CONSORT checklist, the S1Cover letter revised, and the main body-track changed documents from the inventory as these are no longer needed at this stage of the editorial process.

Authors’ reply: We have removed the documents as per your suggestion.

4. Please remove all information related to funding from the acknowledgement subsection.

Authors’ reply: We have removed the following last sentence from the acknowledgement subsection on p27: “Our special gratitude is to Jimma University and the VLIR /Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (Flemish Interuniversity Council) partnership program for funding the research project as part of a PhD scholarship which acknowledges the funding organization”

5. Please provide the full unabbreviated version of VLIR-UOS in the Funding subsection.

Authors’ reply: We have now included “ Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad – Universitaire Ontwikkelingssamenwerking” as an unabbreviated version of VLIR-UOS.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Authors’ reply: We have made changes as per your suggestion.