Author’s response to reviews

Title: A shared framework for the Common Mental Disorders and Non-Communicable Disease: key considerations for disease prevention and control

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr Alice Murray
Editor in Chief
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Dear Dr Murray,

On behalf of my coauthors, please consider a Correspondence piece entitled: “A shared framework for the Common Mental Disorders and Non-Communicable Disease: key considerations for disease prevention and control” for inclusion in BMC Psychiatry. This was originally submitted to BMC Medicine and transferred upon recommendation from the Editor.

Historically, the focus of NCD prevention and control has been on cardiovascular disease (CVD), type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), cancer and chronic respiratory diseases as, collectively, they account for more deaths than any other NCDs. Despite recent calls to include the common mental disorders (CMDs) of depression and anxiety under the NCD umbrella, prevention and control of these CMDs remain largely separate and independent. The Centers for Disease Control has recently proposed a framework to address this gap with three overarching objectives: (1) to obtain better scientific information through surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention research; (2) to disseminate this
information to appropriate audiences through communication and education; and (3) to translate this information into action through programs, policies, and systems. Here we argue that a shared framework of this type is warranted, but also identify opportunities within each objective to advance this agenda and consider the potential benefits of this approach that may exist beyond the health care system.

We anticipate this will be of particular interest to the BMC Psychiatry readership. All authors meet criteria for authorship and are willing to sign a statement attesting authorship, disclosing all potential conflicts of interest, and releasing the copyright should the manuscript be acceptable for publication.

We thank BMC Psychiatry for considering this manuscript and look forward to your feedback.

Yours Sincerely,

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