Author’s response to reviews

Title: Predictors of Weight Loss Outcomes In Obesity Care: Results of the National ACTION Study

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Version: 2 Date: 25 Jul 2019

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PUBH-D-19-00680R1; BMC Public Health
Predictors of Weight Loss Outcomes In Obesity Care: Results of the National ACTION Study Nikhil V Dhurandhar, PhD; Theodore Kyle, RPh, MBA; Boris Stevenin, MD; Kenneth Tomaszewski, PhD

Reviewer reports:

Ann Yelmokas McDermott, PhD (Reviewer 1): Looks good.
One spacing error - in the abstracts is written BMI>30 (with no spaces) Throughout the article you insert a space before all math symbols.
Response: Thank you for your additional review; we have added the space between BMI and >30.

Kufre Joseph Okop, MPH, PhD (Reviewer 2): Second Review:
The authors have addressed all the identified issues in the manuscript. The statistical analysis and results seems substantial and appropriate for the conclusions drawn. However, there are two issues I identified to be addressed as follows:
Results
Table 1:
Slight modification - of BMI mean. It would read better if the BMI mean, and SD is presented in a single line and written as - BMI, Mean (Kg/m2), (SD). This should come just below the sub-BMI Class III (BMI ≥40).
Response: We have made this change and also made the same change in the table for age so it is now one line: (Age, Mean (Years), (SD) for consistency.
In Lines 53-54
To achieve a parsimonious model, a purely statistical approach was used to reduce the Inputs .
I suggest that this statement should be deleted, and substituted with this which seem straightforward to readers who are not statisticians:
To achieve a parsimonious model, a Bayesian variable selection approach was used to i) reduce or the trim down the remaining variables, and ii) overcome the biases and shortcomings of stepwise variable selection.

Response: We have made the requested change in the manuscript.