Author’s response to reviews

Title: Specific motor cortex hypoexcitability and hypoactivation in COPD patients with peripheral muscle weakness

Authors:
Francois Alexandre (francois.alexandre@5-sante.fr)
Nelly Heraud (nelly.heraud@5-sante.fr)
Emilie Tremey (emilie.tremey@5-sante.fr)
Nicolas Oliver (nicolas.oliver@5-sante.fr)
Dominique Bourgouin (dominique.bourgouin@5-sante.fr)
Alain Varray (alain.varray@umontpellier.fr)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

In your last email dated 3 June 2019, you requested us to make 3 changes in our manuscript. The revised manuscript has been posted on the BMC Pulmonary Medicine submission platform. While we could take into consideration your comments 2 and 3, we do not fully understand your comment 1 regarding some textual overlap with a previously published work.

In the editorial policies of BMC Pulmonary medicine, it is indicated that "Posting a manuscript on a preprint server or an author's personal or institutional website does not constitute previous publication". The overlap is with an academic thesis posted on a French institutional website called "tel archives ouvertes". Therefore and in accordance with your guidelines, it does not constitute a previous publication.

Furthermore, the editorial policies also indicate that "Material that has formed part of an academic thesis and been placed in the public domain, as required by the awarding institution, will also be considered by BMC's journals." You should be aware that French Universities impose that each PhD candidate puts his academic thesis on the aforementioned public thesis server database. According to your guidelines, this does not preclude the consideration of my manuscript.

On this basis, I hope that this misunderstanding is going to be resolved, and that you will be able to consider my manuscript and its material in its current form, which constitutes an original and unpublished material according to your editorial policies guidelines.

Best regards
Francois ALEXANDRE