Author’s response to reviews

Title: Rationale and Design of the Brigham Cohort for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Registry (COPPAR)

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Rationale and Design of the Brigham Cohort for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Registry (COPPAR)

Maria Schneeweiss; Joseph F. Merola; Elizabeth W. Karlson; Daniel H. Solomon

Dear Prof. Tu,

Thank you for your response, which I have shared and discussed with the department leadership. I really hope we can resolve this issue. When we selected BMC Dermatology as our target
journal we were carefully reviewing all manuscript requirements, including data availability, and thought it was a good fit.

In your email of January 8 you requested that we comment on the availability of Data and Materials.

A list of options was provided on your web page (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials) and #4 on that list was the most applicable to our situation: “The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.”

After consulting with the department leadership we can state that the data will be shared with qualified investigators after a material transfer agreement is executed. We have text to that regard in the revised manuscript. At this point the Brigham and Women’s Hospital cannot give blanket agreement for external researchers to request and receive patient-level data for privacy reasons. Since the database contains identifiable patient information I hope you will understand this necessity for patient privacy. We are happy to list the webpage of the Department of Dermatology and the respective principal investigators who should be contacted in case of interest. They would be more than happy to consider any request to analyze data that is scientifically meaningful, ethical, and within the HIPAA privacy legislation governing healthcare entities in the U.S.

I am very much looking forward to your advice.

Sincerely,

Maria Schneeweiss