Dear Dr. Aronin,

We appreciate the potential opportunity to have our manuscript “A Qualitative Exploration of Cervical and Breast Cancer Stigma in Karnataka, India,” published in BMC Women’s Health. We have responded as requested for the additional information, please see below.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the revised manuscript.

Should you have any query, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

On behalf of all authors, I look forward to hearing from you soon.
A Qualitative Exploration of Cervical and Breast Cancer Stigma in Karnataka, India Laura Nyblade; Melissa Stockton; Sandra Travasso; Suneeta Krishnan BMC Women's Health

Dear Dr Nyblade,

Your manuscript "A Qualitative Exploration of Cervical and Breast Cancer Stigma in Karnataka, India" (BMWH-D-16-00235R1) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Women's Health, once you have carried out some essential revisions:

Please make the following revisions to your manuscript:

1. Please make sure that all information from the COREQ checklist is explicitly stated in the manuscript.

Response: We have reviewed the manuscript and added the following information to the methods section of the manuscript from the COREQ checklist:

- The training and supervision aimed to minimize potential interviewer biases. Interviewers, who are not authors of this manuscript, are female, have a mix of education
ranging from completing secondary school to Masters degrees, more than 5 years of experience and on-the-job training on survey and qualitative research data collection.

- As CCI had been involved with cancer education and service delivery these villages, CCI had established a relationship with the community at large.

- For both studies, individual participants had no established relationship with the interviewer prior to recruitment.

- For both studies, the content of the informed consent form (either in English or the local languages) as well as the intent and objectives of the study were verbally explained by interviewers to potential participants.

- Interviews, lasting 45 to 90 minutes, were conducted privately in a closed room (a counseling room or consultation room) at the hospital.

- Interviews, also lasting 45 to 90 minutes, were conducted privately at a central location in the village – a school or day care center that was made available to us for the interviews.

- Participants did not provide feedback on the analysis. Interview guides, which were developed by the authors and piloted for comprehensibility, for both studies are available as supplementary files.

- Interviews and discussions were digitally recorded and interviewers took field notes.

- These transcripts were not returned to participants for comment or correction.
2. Please upload all figures as separate figure files and remove them from the main manuscript. Please do not include the figure captions within the figure files, but instead place them at the end of the main manuscript in a section titled “Figure legends”.

Response: Figures are uploaded as separate files from main manuscript and figure captions have been removed from within the figure files and placed at the end of the manuscript in a new section titled “Figure legends.”

3. Thank you for providing a section on Ethics approval. We would appreciate it if you could please provide us with the full, official name of the committee which granted you approval for this study, and committee reference number if appropriate.

Response: The requested details have been added to the ethics approval section. The full names of the committees and reference numbers are: Office of Research Protection, Institutional Review Board, RTI International (Cervical Cancer Study, approval # 13441; Breast Cancer Study, approval # 13264). The breast cancer study received additional approval from St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences, Institutional Ethics Committee, (Approval # 10/2013).

4. Please revise your reference titles to the individuals who provided the quotes to be more anonymized. Additionally, please revise your "Consent to Publish" section to confirm that you have obtained written permission from the individuals who provided them to publish these quotes.

Response: We have revised the reference titles to individuals who provided the quotes to remove the exposed/unexposed reference and the one transcript number that we had mistakenly left in. We have added text in the “Consent to Publish” section noting that respondents provided, through the signed informed consent process, permission to publish quotes without personal identifiers.
5. Thank you for providing a section on author contribution. Please revise this statement to confirm that all authors have read and approved of the final manuscript.

Response: A sentence noting that all authors have read and approved the final manuscript has been added.

6. We would appreciate if you added a section titled “Supplementary files” where you list the following information about your supplementary material:

- File name

- Title of data

- Description of data

Response: This section has been added.

Please ensure that all additional files are explicitly referred to in the main text. Any items which do not meet these requirements may be deleted by our production department.

Response: Reference to the supplementary files has been added as a final sentence to the data collection and analysis section.