Author's response to reviews

Title: Enhancing quality and integrity in biomedical research in Africa: An international call for greater focus, investment and standardisation in capacity strengthening for frontline staff

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editorial Team

Ref: Enhancing quality and integrity in biomedical research in Africa: An international call for greater focus, investment and standardisation in capacity strengthening for frontline staff

On behalf of a group of authors, we wish to submit the above referred article for your consideration. The article is based on the outputs of a recent international workshop in Kenya on the Role of Frontline Staff in Scientific Research which was attended by 15 field managers from 10 African countries and the UK. During the workshop, the managers discussed the relationship between data quality and institutional performance management systems & structures. A strong emerging theme was the importance of the skills and attitudes of frontline staff in ensuing the quality of research data. We are particularly concerned about ethical issues ‘on the ground’ for this group of staff, who often act as cultural brokers between researchers and the communities they work within and generally come from. The output we would like to publish represents a call for more focus on, investment in and standardization of capacity strengthening for a critically important cadre of research staff who often perform very similar roles and encounter similar challenges in many different research settings across Africa.

We do hope that you will favorably consider publishing this article.

Yours faithfully,

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