Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring why global health needs are unmet by research efforts the potential influences of geography, industry, and publication incentives

Version: 0 Date: 15 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Pavel Ovseiko

Reviewer's report:

This is a novel study on research imbalances in addressing health needs at global scale. The study uses state-of-the-art bibliometric methods and makes a number of novel empirical funding. It is also commendable that the authors make their dataset publicly available in open access. Given its global scope and robust study design, it has strong potential to make impact on policy and practice. It is with no hesitation that I recommend it for publication. Before publication, the authors may wish to consider making three minor revisions:

Abstract. Given that it is a research article, it would benefit from structuring the Abstract (Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions) as per submission guidelines: https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research

Discussion. Provide references for this sentence: "Third, we do not find, as sometimes it is argued in the literature, diseases more prevalent in LoMICs and LICs (types 2 and 3) to be underrepresented in the most prestigious journals of disciplines (in the top quartile of journal impact factor)."

Consider introducing a subheading "Limitations and further research" before the last paragraph of Discussion.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An exceptional article

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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