**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Nothing about me without me: Why an EU health literacy strategy embracing the role of citizens and patients is needed

**Authors:**

Alexander Roediger (alexander_roediger@merck.com)

Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous (kaisa.immonen@eu-patient.eu)

Markus Kujawa (markus.kujawa@cpme.eu)

Kristine Sørensen (contact@globalhealthliteracyacademy.org)

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 Jan 2019

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Reviewer #1

Answer to comment 1: Thank you for the reflection and for allowing us to improve the text.

Answer to comment 2: Quaglio et al. (2016), quoted in our submission, provides already an overview of available work. We made this link clearer, including mentioning some of the references provided there.

In addition, we strengthened the argumentation as you suggested: a) limited HL in Europe; b) economic and health impact of low HL; c) future health challenges requiring HL; d) lack of comprehensive and coordinated approach to improve HL.

Answer to comment 3: Our primary message is a call for a strategy at European level to make the different initiatives more impactful. We have clarified this in the document.

Answer to comment 4: Title has been adapted.

Answer to comment 5: We have changed the structure and moved the key points about health literacy higher up.
Answer to comment 6: We have changed and clarified the wording as follows:

“However, the fragmented approach does not only miss opportunities but also may underestimate the need in light of future developments in public health and health care. This commentary advocates for an EU strategy on health literacy to fully take into account the role of citizens and patients in health and health care.”

Answer to comment 7: We agree

Answer to comment 8: That’s not clear. It is actually in the background section.

Reviewer #2:

Answer to comment 1: We have changed the content and the structure to make the argumentation more reference-based and stringent. In the commentary format we can only point to already available evidence and science and tie it together to an argument for a call to action, i.e. a European Health Literacy Strategy.

We are not aware of such a call. We believe that it could create quite some attention and broader support by many stakeholders, including their membership.

Answer to comment 2: We have clarified the argumentation and the call for action in the abstract and the conclusion.

Answer to comment 3: Since it is a commentary, we must limit ourselves to a clear argumentation, references that support the argument, and a call. We have made this more stringent now.

Answer to comment 4: See above.

Answer to comment 5: See above.