Author's response to reviews

Title: Does BMI generated by self-reported height and weight measure up in older adults from middle-income countries? Results from the Study on global AGEing and adult health (SAGE).

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Author Response

General Comments
We thank the reviewers for their helpful feedback. We have reformatted the references section to match the journal specifications. In addition, we have revised the manuscript based on the feedback and believe that we have produced an improved submission. We address the individual comments from reviewers below.

Comments Reviewer One:

1) Minor essential revisions

*Response
• We have read through the manuscript carefully for any grammatical errors or misspelled words.

2) Reference 26 - add online link.

*Response
• This link has been added to the reference.

Comments Reviewer Two:

3) In reference with Table 1 of the study, values of measured and self reported height, weight and BMI if provided, along with the differences obtained among the self reported and measured BMI values would give complete information. Analysis according to weight status would also provide reliable information.

*Response
• Table 1 has been expanded to include average SR and measured BMI values in each country, by age group (i.e., the measured and SR BMI values and the difference between them is now included in the table, in addition to the t-test results). We have accounted for weight status in the regression analyses.

4) In reference with Table 4 of the study, categorization of weight status could be done for overweight, obese, normal weight and underweight, as studies have shown that different weight categories have different variations with respect to measured and self reported BMI.

*Response
• Table 4 has been expanded to include the percentage of the population in each country categorized as underweight, normal weight, overweight, or obese based on measured and self-report BMI values.

5) Calculation of BMI relative error, can add to the analysis. Studies have also shown that ethnicity is an important factor, and causes variations in self reported and measured BMI
values. Thus information on ethnicity, by country and adding this information to the analysis would have strengthened the results.

*Response
Given that BMI values were used to calculate the dependent variable (discrepancy between SR and measured BMI), we were unable to add standard error values to the tables. However, all other standard error values have been included in Tables 2 and 3. In addition, the following statement has been added to the limitations section to address this concern: “Self-reported participant ethnicity was also not included in the regression models due to the large number of missing values (N=2,395”).

6) Dietary factors can also be included in the analysis for more information.

*Response
• The following statement has been added to the limitations section to address this concern: “In addition, the SAGE questionnaire did not include detailed information on diet composition; these analyses therefore did not control for individual dietary factors”.