**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Exploring the Determinants of Suicidal Behavior: Conventional and Emergent Risk (DISCOVER): A feasibility study

**Authors:**

Zainab Samaan (samaanz@mcmaster.ca)
Monica Bawor (baworm@mcmaster.ca)
Brittany B Dennis (dennisbb@mcmaster.ca)
Wala El-Sheikh (wala.elsheikh@phri.ca)
Jane DeJesus (jane.dejesus@phri.ca)
Sumathy Rangarajan (sumathy.rangarajan@phri.ca)
Judith Vair (jvair@stjosham.on.ca)
Heather Sholer (hsholer@stjosham.on.ca)
Nicole Hutchinson (nhutchin@stjosham.on.ca)
Elizabeth Iordan (eiordan@stjosham.on.ca)
Pam Mackie (Pam.Mackie@phri.ca)
Shofiqul Islam (Shofiqul.Islam@phri.ca)
Mahshid Deghan (mahshid.dehghan@phri.ca)
Jennifer Brasch (ijbrasch@stjosham.on.ca)
Lehana Thabane (thabanl@mcmaster.ca)

**Version:** 4  
**Date:** 29 April 2015

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Dr. Lancaster,

April 28th, 2015

We would like to thank the editor for taking the time to carefully review our manuscript entitled *Exploring the Determinants of Suicide: Conventional and Emergent Risk (DISCOVER): A feasibility study* (MS: 1282488266146788) and the helpful suggestions the reviewers made. We feel the manuscript in its revised form will be of high interest to the audience of Pilot and Feasibility Studies. We summarize our response to the reviewers below.

**Editor Comment 1:** Please re-position the tables after the figure title and legend section.

**Author Response to Editor Comment 1:** This has been addressed; please refer to pages 20 and 21 of the manuscript.

**Editor Comment 2:** Please make clear what the error lines in Figure 4 represent.

**Author Response to Editor Comment 2:** The error lines represent variance around the mean estimates for number of food servings. These lines extend to the outer fences of interquartile range, which is represented by the size of the box. Any dots in this image represent outlier observations. We have included this in the figure legend. This has also been clarified in the manuscript; please refer to page 10.

**Editor Comment 3:** Please add confidence intervals for differences between groups to your methods section and results tables (Table 1 could be split into Table 1a and 1b for each control group comparison) or at least to the results quoted in the text.

**Author Response to Editor Comment 3:** Table 1 presents the differences between three groups of participants (cases, control 1, and control 2) using ANOVA. While this analysis suggests a difference exists between groups, we are unable to determine which group is driving the difference. To circumvent this problem we provide a pair wise comparison and report the mean differences between cases versus control group 1 and cases versus control group 2. We have included a supplementary appendix with an additional two tables detailing these new analyses. This is also addressed on pages 8 (paragraph 2) and 10 (paragraph 2) of the manuscript.

**Editor Comment 4:** Please also add a sentence to the discussion on page 11 at the end of second paragraph with some text to point out the use of p-values is exploratory and as such should be interpreted with caution.

**Author Response to Editor Comment 4:** This has been addressed; please refer to page 13 (paragraph 2) of the manuscript.
Editor Comment 5: Minor typos to correct:
Page 1 line 3, deaths globally; Page 6 line 8, participate in the study; and the researcher
Page 6 line 12; and current medications.
Page 7 line 10, whether patients found;
Page 7 line 13, Please put categories in quotes to make clear eg. rather much and often.
Page 8 line 4, have a substitute;
Page 10 line 3, scheduled tasks; Page 11 line 8, the DISCOVER study.

Author Response to Editor Comment 5: All minor typos highlighted by the editor have been corrected.

We thank the editor for thoroughly reviewing the manuscript. We feel the manuscript in its revised form will be of high interest to the audience of Pilot and Feasibility Studies.

Sincerely,