Author’s response to reviews

Title: A systematic score-card based approach to site assessment in preparation for Lassa fever vaccine clinical trials in affected countries

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We appreciate the opportunity of submitting our manuscript with your journal and the detailed peer review system. Our responses to the comments of the reviewers are hereby outlined below for your consideration. Thank you for your time.

• Please ensure a native English speaker reads through the manuscript and tables to correct all the small grammatical mistakes.
  Reply: This has been done and the manuscript has been further vetted with necessary changes made to the grammar and style.

• Lines 86 and 108 'the majority'
  Reply: Thanks, this has now been replaced with ‘most of’ in L87

• Line 110 'The inability to recruit...increases..'
  Reply: Thanks, this has now been rectified in L106

• Line 117 'the world's'
  Reply: Thanks, this has now been rectified in L113.

• Line 173 'a specific'
  Reply: Thanks, this has now been rectified in L196.

• Line 215 'had responded'
  Reply: This has been rectified in L220. Thanks
• Line 217 'The period'  
Reply: This has been rectified in L222. Thanks

• Please add at the end of the introduction the aims and objectives to be addressed, ensuring that the objectives match each of the methods and results given.  
Reply: Thanks. This has now been added to the introduction. See L149-L152

• Line 210-202 there are overlapping categories - e.g. 50-75%, &gt;=75%, please ensure they are discrete and do not overlap?  
Reply: This has been corrected. For the analysis, sites scoring 50-74% were categorized as B while sites scoring 75 and above were A sites. See L206-L207

• Lines 221-223 are repeated lines to the previous ones. Please delete one se  
Reply: deleted. L224-226 now captures same information. Thanks

• Please check that percentages add up to 100% on lines 221-223 and lines 228-229 (these add to 108%), and anywhere else.  
Reply: This has now been done. L225-L226. Thanks

• Please move Limitations section to come within the Discussion section.  
Reply: This has now been done. L351-L359. Thanks

Thank you,

Dr. Kolawole Salami