Author’s response to reviews

Title: High prevalence of protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor N22 gene functional variant R620W in systemic lupus erythematosus patients from Kuwait: implications for disease susceptibility

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Author’s response to reviews:

Re: MS # BRHM-D-17-20 (Al-Awadhi et al.)

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your email dated 12th September 2017. In response to the points raised in your email, we have made changes in our manuscript and a revised manuscript is being submitted online. A point-wise response is given below:

1. We have removed all ‘Financial related information’ from the Acknowledgement section.

2. In the ‘Ethics’ section, we have indicated that verbal informed consent was obtained and have explained the reasons for not obtaining written consent (administrative issues involving hospital Managers).
3. The heading ‘Patients and Methods’ in Abstract has been changed to ‘Methods’ as per your advice.

4. Thank you for sending the ‘iThenticate document’ showing highlighted parts of our manuscript which the software has identified as ‘overlap’ with previous sources. Our response is as follows”:

- The highlighted portions in general involve scientific/medical terms which are commonly used in the literature and therefore were picked up by the software.

- In the Abstract/Background/Methods sections, the highlighted parts involve the information obtained from previous sources for which the appropriate references have been cited. Most of the highlighted portions involve terms and/or description of a biological function.

- We have modified the text as much as possible to avoid any possible re-use of text from the past sources.

5. The manuscript has been prepared in accordance with the STROBE-guidelines according to the policies of the BioMedCentral.

We are confident that you would find the above response acceptable and would proceed with further processing of our manuscript.
With regards,

Sincerely,

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