Author’s response to reviews

Title: Predictors of biologic-free disease control in patients with rheumatoid arthritis after stopping tumor necrosis factor inhibitor treatment

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Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Dr. Mockridge,

Thank you for the handling of the manuscript “Predictors of biologic-free disease control in patients with rheumatoid arthritis after stopping tumor necrosis factor inhibitor treatment”.

Please find enclosed the revised version of our manuscript and our response to each comment raised by the editor. All changes have been incorporated in the manuscript.

We hope that this revised version will be accepted for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Also on behalf of the other authors,

Sincerely,

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Point-by-point reply:
1. It has come to our attention that within your Background, Methods and Discussion there is significant text overlap with other publications, particularly:

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please rephrase this section in your own words to avoid direct overlap (please note, we cannot accept direct textual overlap with any previously published works even if the authors of the work are yourselves). Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this
issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated.
Response: It is true that several sentences in the Background, Methods and Discussion sections were (almost) identical to the PLoS publication that also dealt with a post-hoc predictor analysis of the POET study. We thoroughly re-wrote these sections to eliminate all direct overlap. A check of the manuscript using plagiarism software now indicates that, besides the additional formal declaration and references, the manuscript does not contain direct overlap.

2. The individual contributions of all authors to the manuscript should be specified in the Authors’ Contributions section.
Response: The individual contributions of all authors are now explicitly listed (page 16).

3. We note that the order of authors in the system is not the same as in the title page of the manuscript. Please ensure that the order of authors in the system is the same as in the title page of the manuscript. If you need to change your author list from the order currently on the title page of your manuscript you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5.
Response: We checked and changed the order of authors in the system.

4. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.
Response: We added a separate Conclusions section (page 14).

5. Please include the full name of all of the ethics committees (and the institute to which it belongs) that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.
Response: We included the full name (the ethics committee is independent and does not belong to a single institution) and reference number (page 15).