Dear Dr. Renda-Tanali:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript (Ref: JHSEM-2017-0008), “Using Simulated Annealing to Improve the Information Dissemination Network Structure of a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak Response.” We are grateful to you and to the reviewers for your time and constructive feedback. We carefully considered the comments and recommendations. In what follows, we provide detailed responses (***in italics and bold font***) to the reviewers’ original comments. Our changes in the manuscript are identified with green text, to distinguish from the previous changes made in red.

We hope that you agree that the manuscript is improved as a result of these changes.

Sincerely,

James Pleuss, Jessica Heier Stamm, and Jason Ellis