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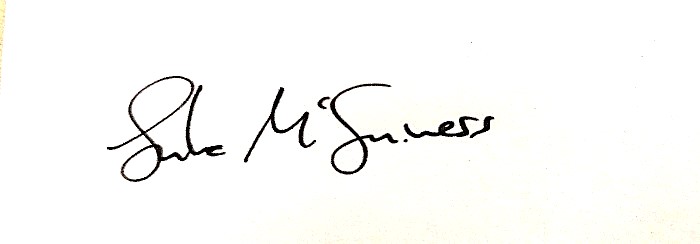
Dear Editor,

**RE: A descriptive analysis of the data availability statements accompanying medRxiv preprints and a comparison with their published counterparts**

We are pleased to submit this manuscript to PLOS ONE, in which we present a descriptive comparison of the data availability statements accompanying medRxiv preprints with their published counterparts. We provide initial evidence that strict data-sharing policies which mandate the deposition of research data as a condition of publication, such as the policy adopted by PLOS ONE, succeed in making research data more open. Our approach, to compare the data availability statements for the same paper under two completely different data-sharing policies, is useful as it helps to address the potential for self-selection – that is, the potential for authors who always planned to share their data submitting to journals who require data-sharing. In addition, we also provide evidence that an additional structured code availability section would help to capture code availability declarations more comprehensively.

We believe that this report will be of appreciable interest to the readership of PLOS One and will prove a valuable addition to the growing collection of work published by the journal on the availability of research data. This work has not been submitted or accepted elsewhere. Thank you for considering our manuscript and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Luke McGuinness (on behalf of the authors)