

June 26, 2006

Molly C. Dougherty, PhD, RN  
Editor, *Nursing Research*  
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The University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7460

Dear Dr. Dougherty:

Enclosed is my revised manuscript # 2006/044 entitled, The Anniversary of Birth Trauma: Failure to Rescue. The reviewers' comments were insightful and excellent and certainly helped to strengthen this manuscript. I have addressed the issues raised by the reviewers in the following ways:

Reviewer #1

1. A sentence was added in the background section of the abstract that identifies the negative consequences of birth trauma.
2. In the literature review section the intervention study conducted by DiBlasio and Ionio (2002) was clarified with additional specifics regarding its methodology . The term "unpleasant event" in the study was never defined.
3. In the section on research design, the description of Colaizzi's method was completely revised to make it clearer to the readers. I also addressed the reviewer's concern about whether the use of written protocols by the mothers provided an adequate outlet to describe their experiences. I added a sentence on examples of the few times I needed to ask the participants for additional information.
4. The section on trustworthiness was expanded to provide additional information on credibility, confirmability, dependability and transferability.
5. In the discussion I explained how "failure to rescue" was linked to a theme in the second cluster of themes. I added Table 2 to illustrate a portion of the audit trail I used to analyze the written protocols. To answer the reviewer's question on p.19, lines 8-9, I am not referring to DiBlasio and Ionio's intervention study.
6. Under the reviewer's comments for organization I added Wolf to p.3, line 8. I changed "his" to "her" birthday. Lastly on p.11, line 16 I changed hyperglycemia to hypoglycemia. Thank you for catching these typos.

#### Reviewer #2

1. In the introduction the research problem was strengthened by adding material on the long term effects of birth trauma on mothers and their children.
2. The review of the literature has been revised and parts of it rearranged to flow better. Description of studies on PTSD in general and importance of triggers have been added. Some new 2006 studies have been included.
3. Sample recruitment was discussed in more depth. The average monthly number of hits to the TABS website was added which the reviewer had requested. In the trustworthiness section I discussed the possible limitation of the study by including only mothers who have access to the Internet and the support of a website like TABS.
4. I calculated a response rate and included it in the manuscript.
5. As mentioned in my revisions that reviewer #1 had requested, I have added Table 2 which gives the readers examples of how Colaizzi's method was applied to the data. I introduced each cluster of themes by providing a general description of each one.
6. To the discussion section was added some practical suggestions for providers on how to assess risk for PTSD related to birth trauma. Specific suggestions for future research were added such as, detrimental effects of birth trauma on mother infant relationships.

#### *Nursing Research Checklist for Style*

1. I added the professional titles of those acknowledged.
2. Updated the reference list to meet APA 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. format.
3. Updated the in-text citations using APA 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Format.
4. Removed references from reference list that were not cited in the text.

Hopefully these revisions will meet with your approval and those of the two reviewers. By addressing all their concerns, however, the number of pages of the manuscript has increased.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Tatano Beck, DNSc, CNM, FAAN  
Professor