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Journal Name:	**International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health**
Manuscript Number:	**2013_IJTDH_5864**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Increased High Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol and Total Cholesterol Levels in Traders with Metabolic Syndrome in an Apparently Healthy Nigerian Population**
Type of the Article	**Research Paper**

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.
To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	**Author's comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)*
Compulsory REVISION comments		
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments	This study aimed to identify specific alterations of metabolic biomarkers in individuals with metabolic syndrome for early diagnosis, prevention, and management of metabolic syndrome. In this cohort study, the authors investigated 534 apparently healthy Nigerian traders. Using IDF criteria for metabolic syndrome (MetS), the authors shows the frequency of traders with different number of MetS components. They also found that MetS was associated with age and blood pressure, and subjects with MetS had higher levels of HDL-cholesterol than those without MetS. In conclusion, they suggest that Metabolic alterations exist in MS and MS was associated with blood pressure and age. The high levels of HDL-cholesterol in Nigerians with MS may be cardioprotective. Although the paper seems to be well-prepared at first glance, there are several major issues to be considered. First, it is obvious that subjects with MetS had more metabolic alterations than those without it, because that is why they are classified as "metabolic syndrome". In this regard, I don't think the authors have reached their aim to "identify specific alterations of metabolic biomarkers in individuals with metabolic syndrome for early diagnosis, prevention, and management of	Thanks for all your comments. These were noted. The article has been rewritten to accommodate all your comments with a new title. The change is to reflect the diagnostic criteria for MS.

	metabolic syndrome". Therefore, I suggest the authors to refine their specific aims more clearly and definitely. Second, the result that metabolic syndrome was associated with blood pressure can be expected because blood pressure is one of the components used in diagnosing MetS. Third, the authors found that subjects with MetS had a significantly higher HDL-cholesterol (Table 2), which they suggested to be a novel and key finding in the present study. However, it is very possible that the difference comes from the gender difference between groups. Although not shown in the current manuscript, in their previous publication (ref, 2) on the same cohort, they showed that females had a significantly higher prevalence of MetS than males (20.9% vs. 6.5%, P<0.0001)(Table 4). This may account for the significantly higher HDL-cholesterol seen in subjects with MetS as a whole. To compare differences of key parameters between groups, I suggest the authors to adjust for effect of age, sex, and other important confounding factors. This will make the study results more reliable.	

Note: Anonymous Reviewer