

Reply: Response to Cookstove Trials and Tribulations: What Is Needed to Decrease the Burden of Household Air Pollution?

From the Authors:

We thank Cindy Gray, Emily Colarte, and Clara Young for their letter in response to our article, "Cookstove Trials and Tribulations: What Is Needed to Decrease the Burden of Household Air Pollution?" (1). We completely agree with their thoughtful analysis and suggestion that a more participatory interdisciplinary approach is needed to develop interventions to reduce air pollution. The clinical trials conducted to date have been helpful in testing out some of the more "obvious" solutions that have been advocated for and invested in on scale (cleaner fuels and cookstoves), but what is needed now is a more sophisticated approach that takes a broader view of what an effective (and cost-effective) intervention might look like. We suggest that such an intervention would need to focus on achieving clean air and that the pathway to clean air will involve much more than cleaner fuels and cookstoves. A collaborative interdisciplinary participatory research approach to developing a clean air intervention that tackles air pollution from lighting, heating, cooking, burning rubbish, and other sources is, we agree,

now needed. And when the clean air intervention has been developed and piloted, there will, once again, be a need to evaluate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the intervention through large-scale, well-designed clinical trials.

Author disclosures are available with the text of this letter at www.atsjournals.org.

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References

- 1 Mortimer K, Balmes JR. Cookstove trials and tribulations: what is needed to decrease the burden of household air pollution? *Ann Am Thorac Soc* 2018;15:539–541.

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