Author's response to reviews

Title: Comparison of participants and non-participants to the ORISCAV-LUX population-based study on cardiovascular risk factors in Luxembourg

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Covering letter

Dear Sir,

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Comparison of participants and non-participants to the ORISCAV-LUX population-based study of cardiovascular risk factors in Luxembourg” to be considered for publication in “BMC Medical Research Methodology”.

Poor response is a major source of concern in epidemiological and public health surveys. In a stratified population-based study carried out in Luxembourg (ORISCAV-LUX) to assess the prevalence of potentially modifiable cardiovascular risk factors among the general healthy population, the non-response rate was not negligible. There were concerns about the characteristics of non-respondents and the sample representativeness.

To the best of our knowledge, it is the first article describing the strategies used to enhance response rate, investigating the representativeness of study sample to the general population, and comparing the known demographic and cardiovascular health-related profiles of participants and non-participants.

The authors have selected the “BMC Medical Research Methodology” because the editorial policies of this journal consider articles on epidemiological research methodology and methodological approaches to healthcare research. In addition, we intend to submit simultaneously in the same journal a second article covering the design and conduct of the ORISCAV-LUX study; the first ever nationwide cardiovascular monitoring survey aimed to establish baseline information on the prevalence of potentially modifiable and preventable cardiovascular risk factors among the adult residents of Luxembourg. Publishing the two articles in “BMC Medical Research Methodology”, we hope to diffuse widely and rapidly the primary seeds of the ORISCAV-LUX study that has dual significance on research and public health care fields.

The paper has been read and approved by all authors. Neither this manuscript nor one with substantially similar content under our authorship has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere. There is yet no other publication of any part of the work. I assure that there is no financial or other contractual agreement that may cause a conflict of interest.

Yours sincerely,

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