Reviewer’s report

Title: Validity of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire and the Singapore Prospective Study Program physical activity questionnaire in a multiethnic urban Asian population

Version: 1 Date: 8 July 2011

Reviewer: Patrick Bergman

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Authors

I have with interest read your manuscript entitled "Validity of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire and the Singapore Prospective Study Program physical activity questionnaire in a multiethnic urban Asian population". Overall it is an interesting and well conducted study but I have a few concerns that I feel needs to be addressed.

Major compulsory revisions

1) It is unclear how the IPAQ data was treated, was the IPAQ scoring protocol followed during data cleaning (http://www.ipaq.ki.se/scoring.pdf)? When looking at the figures it looks as if there may be some outliers that potentially is a result of not following them.

2) The figures (1 & 2) are not very good, for example units on the axises are lacking. Please tidy them up.

Minor essential revisions

1) Throughout the paper the authors need to make a better job in defining physical activity, physical inactivity and energy expenditure and to be consistent in how they use the words.

2) The accelerometer needs to be better described. It is very confusing to read row 5-8 on page 8. There are for example no anatomical plane called single plane and the word sensitive occurs five times in four lines.

3) On the bottom of the same page the abbreviation CV is introduced without having been explained.

Discretionary Revisions

1) The authors may be interested in the following article:

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests