Reviewer’s report

Title: Seasonal influenza risk in hospital healthcare workers is determined by household rather than occupational exposures: results from a prospective cohort study in Berlin, Germany.

Version: 1 Date: 9 July 2009

Reviewer: JEROME SALOMON

Reviewer’s report:

1) Major Compulsory Revisions: none

2) Minor essential revisions:
   - please explain and discuss significant differences observed between the two groups in terms of sex ratio, immunisation, smoking and use of public transport; impact on your analysis and conclusion?
   - you should discuss more deeply the quite important losses during study (1044 participants recruited but only 736 available for analysis of SCII)
   - in terms of household contacts, could you give some more details about children's mean age, school, regular use of public transport?
   - selection bias could be more developed and detailed
   - the power of the study could be too low and the size of the population not sufficient to detect a relative risk of 1.7...
   
   Please use a more cautious title "could be" or "seems" determined ...

   What is your real independence from BGW (of course very concerned by results)?

   Could you find any references about car ownership and influenza or air born transmission?

   Do you think this study could be done during this pandemic period and could you give any comment about your results, HCW and pandemic situation?

   Do you have any information about hygiene measures taken, use of personal protective equipment?

3) Discretionary revisions:
   please verify your references in the text (not correctly integrated page 14 and after)
   check your references (page 19 to 22) : long title, short title of periodics, use vancouver presentation
Is table 4 really meaning anything important?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests