Author's response to reviews

Title: Alcohol consumption and risk of gastric cancer: a cohort study of men in Kaunas, Lithuania, with up to 30 years follow-up

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Version: 3 Date: 8 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Christna Chap

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comment, and resubmit the paper entitled “Alcohol consumption and risk of gastric cancer: a cohort study of men in Kaunas, Lithuania, with up to 30 years follow-up.

Following the comment, we have indicated in the methods section:

Both studies were based on voluntary, informed participation. Participants gave no written informed consent prior to the baseline examination as this was not required in the former Soviet Union. The current study, including the use of data from the 1970s without written informed patients’ consent, was approved by the Regional Biomedical Research Ethical Committee in 2011 (No. 158200-02-280-65).

The approval was granted because:
- The study was based on voluntary, informed participation [25].
- Written informed consent was not required at the time of baseline surveys.
- The baseline interview and examination data were obtained 30-38 years ago.

The changes are indicated in the manuscript as Bold text (page 6 paragraph 2).

All authors have agreed to the revised manuscript.

Yours sincerely,
Ruta Everatt