Author's response to reviews

Title: Development of mental disorders one year after exposure to psychosocial stressors in primary care patients with a physical complaint; a cohort study

Authors:

Lilli Herzig (Lilli.Herzig@hin.ch)
Nicole Mühlemann (nicmmh@romandie.com)
Bernard Burnand (bernard.burnand@chuv.ch)
Bernard Favrat (bernard.favrat@chuv.ch)
François Verdon (flverdon@net2000.ch)
Thomas Bischoff (thomas.bischoff@hospvd.ch)
Nader Haftgoli (nader.haftgoli@gmail.com)
Paul Vaucher (paul.vaucher@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 8 December 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed for exclusive consideration to publication our manuscript entitled:

**Development of mental disorders one year after exposure to psychosocial stressors in primary care patients with a physical complaint; a cohort study**

Mental disorders are very common in primary care (PC), and often associated with physical complaints. Furthermore, patients with mental disorders describe commonly exposures to psychosocial stressors and there is a linear association between the number of such stressors and the presence of mental disorders. Therefore, exposure to psychosocial stressors and development or presence of mental disorders is commonly correlated in literature but temporal association remains unproven until now.

The SODA study (S0matization, Depression Anxiety), a PC cohort study in the French part of Switzerland, analyzes this temporal association and supports such causal association. The interest of this association may allow GPs to detect early risk factors of mental disorders in PC patients. This study opens the field of early screening and treatment strategies which may diminish the onset of mental disorders and so human suffering.

Preliminary results of this study have been presented and published in the abstract book of the Wonca Europe Conference 2009 in Basel Switzerland. The work has not been published in any peer-reviewed journal.

The manuscript has been approved by all the authors for whom requirements for authorship have been met. The corresponding author has secured permission to name those listed under acknowledgments.

Basing our choice on the literature, we suggest the following experts as potential reviewers:

Jens Peter Bonde, (jpbon@as.aaa.dk) Department of Occupational Medicine, Aarhus University Hospital
E.L. Poleshuck, (ellen_poleshuck@urmc.rochester.edu) University of Rochester Medical Center.

Bernd Löwe, (bernd.loewe@med.uni-heidelberg.de) Department of Psychosomatic and General Internal Medicine Center of Psychosocial Medicine, University of Heidelberg.

Sheldon Cohen, (scohen@cmu.edu). Department of Psychology, Carnegie, Mellon University Pittsburgh

Kind regards

Lilli Herzig Paul Vaucher