Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of serum leptin and ghrelin with depressive symptoms in a Japanese working population: a cross-sectional study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Professor Mario Juruena

Associate Editor

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Title: Association of serum leptin and ghrelin with depressive symptoms in a Japanese working population

Dear Professor,

Thank you very much for your consideration to the above-referenced manuscript. We revised the manuscript according to the comments by reviewers. Our responses to the reviewers’ comments are provided in a separate sheet and coloured in red the corresponding sentences in text. The page and line numbers referred to our revised manuscript.

We hope that the revision would be satisfactory in addressing issues raised by the reviewers.

Yours sincerely,

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Response to the reviewer

Rev#1

Reviewer: Tobias Hofmann

Reviewer's report:
The paper is now good and results are interpretable. Readability was also improved.
There are only some minor/discretionary points:
1. L.105: waiter (?) instead of water.
   In this line, we mean worker who engaged in water (not waiter), sewer, and waste treatment (line 105 on page 10).
2. L. 141, 145 and 146: omit ‘respectively’ for better readability
   We omitted “respectively” for the mentioned sentences.
3. L. 154: ‘omen in the middle and highest tertiles of leptin levels showed….’
   According to the suggestion we corrected this sentence.
4. L. 236: replace ‘lessons’ by ‘lessens’
   We corrected this word.

Rev#2

Reviewer: Seren Roberts

Reviewer's report:
- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None
- Minor Essential Revisions
  page 17 line 236 ‘lessons’ should be ‘lessens’?
  We corrected this word.
- Discretionary Revisions
  None

Rev#3

Reviewer: Martha Payne

Reviewer's report:
Prior concerns have been addressed.
Minor Essential Revision
1. Check spelling (e.g., ghrelin vs. gherlin on Page 17)
   We corrected “gherlin” as “ghrelin”.
Discretionary Revisions

1. Consider adding 'cross sectional' to Title.

   We added “a cross-sectional study” in the title of the manuscript.

2. Consider other statistical options for examining non-linear relationships (alternatives to use of tertiles).

   Thank you for your suggestion. We tried some statistical technique for the assessment of non-linear relationship including spline regression model and including a quadratic term (i.e square of leptin & ghrelin) into a linear regression model and confirmed that the relationship between leptin and depressive symptoms is non-linear, whereas ghrelin and depressive symptoms is linear. However, our data is not large enough to confirm non-linearity using such technique, we believe that presenting results according to tertile would be simple and better.