Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived racial discrimination, response to unfair treatment, and coronary calcification in asymptomatic adults - the North Texas Healthy Heart Study

Version: 1 Date: 1 December 2009

Reviewer: Saffron Karlsen

Reviewer's report:

I believe this is a potentially ground-breaking study, which will be very useful for developing our understanding of the pathways between racism and CHD, and illhealth more generally. The sample power is limited, so the work requires some replication, but it is able to provide good indication for the direction of that future work.

I am concerned that the classification of anyone who has smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime as a smoker will not be discriminatory, and this variable may be coded more usefully.

I would be grateful for some clarification what the 'controlled environment' mentioned on page 7 is.

Please describe the models more comprehensively. What do you mean by 'crude LR'?

Avoid repeating in the text figures which are in tables, particularly confidence intervals.

'Response to unfair treatment was found to significantly modify this relationship' (page 13): I can't locate this model in the tables.

More consideration is needed in the discussion of the problems associated with recognising (for researchers and victims), measuring and analysing racism and how this might have affected these findings. It is too simplistic to assume that a report of one incident of racism is simply that, and that your findings do not in part uncover the effect of 'cumulative experiences of unfair treatment' (page 16). You could start by looking at Karlsen and Nazroo (2002) in the American Journal of Public Health, or some of the work by Nancy Krieger.

I'm not aware that there is evidence that 'people from different ethnic groups differ in their response to stressful situations' (page 16), more that people from certain ethnic group experience more and particular types of stressful situations.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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