Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing Local Determinants of Neural Tube Defects in the Heshun Region, China

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2009

Reviewer: Gerard Rushton

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the revised manuscript and find that my positive statements in my previous review are still positive. The required revisions I requested have been done to my satisfaction. My remaining concerns are noted in the following points:

Page 2: The phrase "Ruston's circling method" has not been revised. This should read "Rushton's circle method".

Page 5: "Remarkably, most kinds of birth defects designated....linked to NTD are the predominate ones..." Should be "are the predominant ones"

Page 7, last line "which is why the Ruston's circling method (Ruston, 1996) was used in this study" should be "which is why the Rushton's circle method (Rushton and Lolonis, 1996) was used in this study."

Page 11, bottom line," and is not the main maze production area" maze should be maize.

Page 18 bottom line "Soil and lithology" should be "Soil and lithology".

These are minor revisions but they should be made before accepting the paper for publication in your journal. I now believe this is a significant contribution to the literature.