Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of cardiovascular risk factors between Sri Lankans living in Kandy and Oslo

Version: 1 Date: 22 June 2010

Reviewer: Ana Santos

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions
Throughout the text some spelling mistakes must be corrected.
Statistical analysis: This section should be more detailed. Not all statistical methods are described.

Discretionary Revisions

Methods:
Regarding the participants selection in Kandy study, the authors state the Tamils were identified by their family names. If, by chance, more than one participant from each family was selected, how did the authors proceed?
Statistical analysis: Authors’ state that linear regression models were used (UNIANOVA). Were all the variables normally distributed? If so, the authors must state how this was evaluated.

Discussion:
Do you think that the lag of three years between the evaluation in Oslo and Sri Lanka, could have any implications on the results?
Non fasting blood samples were collected; also blood pressure was not measured with the participants fasting. Was this the case in both samples (Oslo and Sri Lanka)? What may have been the implications on the results?
Regarding the discussion on the increased height of the immigrant participants, considering that this is a first generation immigrant population, do the authors believe that this might have been the effect of childhood better conditions, or is it the consequence of immigrants being the fittest among a determined population?

Conclusions:
The authors concluded that differences in BMI may have been associated with changes in the lifestyles of this population. Isn’t it also reasonable to expect that the same alterations in lifestyles would play an effect in the other CVD risk factors?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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