Reviewer's report

**Title:** The role of social support and social networks in smoking behavior among middle and older aged people in rural area of South Korea: A cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 October 2009

**Reviewer:** Montse Garcia

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper describes the association among social support and social networks with smoking behavior among middle and older aged people in South Korea. I have some concerns about the validity of this study that the authors should clarify.

1) How was the sample size determined?

2) Better describe how the study members were recruited.

3) Why did not the authors use a stratified sampling approach, for exemple, to balance the sample for sex or age groups?

4) There are several limitations to be noted regarding this study.

5) Add a paragraph about the generability of your findings.

6) The smoking prevalence among the study members was quite lower compared to the smoking prevalence among Koreans aged over 19 (see introduction section). However, the authors did not even mention it in the discussion section.

7) Explain the potential differences on smoking prevalence between urban or rural population in your country.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**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.