Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of social status inconsistency on cardiovascular risk factors, myocardial infarction and stroke in the EPIC-Heidelberg cohort

Version: 1 Date: 3 August 2010

Reviewer: Youlian Liao

Reviewer's report:

This is a study on an “old” issue with new data. It adds valuable data in the literature. I have a few comments below.

1. How many cases whose status of events were unknown and were excluded (page 5)?

2. The authors stated: “The distribution of SI is presented in table 3” (page 5). However, this reviewer did not see this information in Table 3.

3. Please explain what “the controls” meant (page 6)?

4. The authors stated: “Compared to occupationally stable or upwardly mobile men, low educated men occupying high occupational positions showed the highest prevalence of CVD (8.5%) (page 7). Where the 8.5% came from (it is not in the table)? The percentages presented in Table 1 under “CVD by status inconsistency” are not very useful. Instead, the incidence of CVD by status inconsistency (three categories) by gender is the key information that should be presented.

5. In Table 1, Under Outcome, the total number of CVD is 476 (388+88). The number is 469 under “CVD by status inconsistency”. However, on page 5, the total CVD number is 489.

6. “High BMI was found to be the strongest factor, explaining 20% of the relationship between status inconsistency and CVD in men” (page 8). How the 20% were calculated?

7. “Status Inconsistency” should be removed from the title of Table 2.

8. In Table 3, information on diabetes should be included since diabetes was a covariate in Table 4.

9. The authors adjusted for age plus one of the other covariates in each model (Table 4). However, the authors never reported a final model including all the covariates simultaneously.

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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.