Author's response to reviews

Title: Health problems account for a small part of the association between socioeconomic status and disability pension award. Results from the Hordaland Health Study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Oslo May 11th 2010

We hereby submit the enclosed manuscript for consideration for publication as a full length article in *BMC Public Health*. The title of the manuscript is *Health problems account for a small part of the association between socioeconomic status and disability pension award. Results from the Hordaland Health Study*. The manuscript is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and no financial support from commercial sources has been granted for this work.

Health has been suggested to mediate the association between low socioeconomic status and high risk of disability benefits. The aim of the current study is to examine the relevance of health as a mechanism in this association. Our data consist of a linkage between participants in a health study (n=15,067) and a registry of disability benefits. Our findings suggest that the relevance of health as a mechanism in the association between disability benefits and socioeconomic status might have been overestimated.

We hope that you will find this study to be of interest to the readers of your journal, and are looking forward to your response.

On behalf of all authors,

Sincerely

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