Author's response to reviews

Title: Study on Occupational Allergy Risks (SOLAR II) in Germany: Design and methods

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Author's response to reviews: see over
**Answer to the reviewer**

**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Study on Occupational Allergy Risks (SOLAR II) in Germany: Design and methods  
**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 29 January 2011  
**Reviewer:** Xinbiao Guo

The current paper is much improved. I have only one remaining comment: It is obvious that there are some obvious differences in several baseline characteristics between responders and non-responders as shown in Table 3 & 4, e.g. the newly added variables Smoking during pregnancy/ Passive smoke exposure /Smoker (Are the variables marked bold in Table 3 & 4 suggest significant differences between groups?). Although the manuscript focuses on method, it is still helpful for readers to better understand the study if the authors could give some general comments on the possible confounding effect/bias for the variables on the association between occupational exposure and the course of atopic and respiratory diseases.

**Answer to reviewer:**

Yes, the variables marked bold in Table 3 & 4 show significant differences between groups, we changed the legend of table 3 and 4 (page 33 and 35).  
We added some more comments concerning the possible effect of selection bias on the association between occupational exposure and the course of atopic and respiratory diseases (page 21).