Reviewer's report

**Title:** Recruitment and variability in risk factors and biomarkers from a multi-center study: Is a prospective cohort of diet feasible in India?

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 15 February 2011

**Reviewer:** Younjin Ahn

**Reviewer's report:**

This article has the meaning of sharing the experience and know-how with epidemiologists in emerging countries who prepare cohort studies, because establishing cohort in economically developing countries would have different difficulties, conditions, facilities, and infrastructure with western, developed countries.

I have several suggestion below.

1. Authors suggested that cohort study about dietary exposures and cancers in India could provide unique insights. However, findings from population with certain region, ethnicity or dietary pattern might have the limitation on interpretation or generalization. On your mention of Background 2nd paragraph, you’d better emphasize the meaning of Indian cohort on global public health.

2. Even many people eat curry and tandoori chicken in world-wide, they don’t have any idea of Indian dietary characteristics. IHS is the cohort study about dietary exposures and cancers. Please introduce more about Indian diet and NINA-DISH(dietary assessment tool)

3. Discussion 2nd paragraph - What characters of Indian people or traditional thoughts make you think that many of the participants would not agree to giving blood or urine samples or to physical examinations?

4. I would like to recommend you add on discussion section about evaluation of recruit result of three regions whether the participants had heterogeneity lifestyle exposures as you intended (there were dietary features on 5th paragraph).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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