Reviewer’s report

Title: Biological Monitoring of Blood Naphthalene Level as a Marker of Occupational and Environmental Exposure to PAHs among Car-Mechanics and Car-Spray Painters in Rawalpindi

Version: 2 Date: 28 March 2011

Reviewer: Qaisar Mahmood

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript reports the detection of blood naphthalene level as a marker of occupational and environmental exposure to PAHs among car-mechanics and car-spray painters in Rawalpindi. Introduction is relevant and presents the research theme clearly. Results are clear and well versed. Data presentation is well controlled and is quite innovative. Tabulating and graphs are sophisticated and fully self explanatory. Discussion is fluent, very comprehensive and convincing and covers almost all the important aspects of research outcomes. Overall research work gave some new dimensions of studies from reported country and therefore it would certainly open new ideas for future investigations that could substantially contribute in occupational environment assessment and improving health safety policies.

Suggestions:
In general, I must add that the authors must improve the quality of English in the manuscript.

Title: It is not appropriate; too long, it may be revised as, “Blood naphthalene level as a marker of occupational exposure to PAH among auto-mechanics and spray painters in Rawalpindi, Pakistan”.

Conclusions: Please add one or two sentences on the quantitative results.

It would be appropriate if authors could mention following aspects (if not all then as many as possible) in the discussion or where appropriate.

1. Some other related occupations that may also be studied in future.
2. A briefly explanation of the tasks commonly performed by the two working groups studied which would improve the understanding of occupation.
3. Reasons for selection or priority of these occupational groups.
4. Elaborate whether control group was also occupational population, non-occupational, or mixed subject.
5. Author may explain do current setup of workers permit to reduce work hours and what possible financial constrains prevent such reforms.
6. If possible mention few important chemicals that are routinely used in these occupations and are sources of exposure.
7. Author should briefly explain why these occupations swarm in big cities of Pakistan and why are these occupations preferably adopted by most of the poor community despite strenuous responsibilities and health risk.

8. References are too numerous; please remove some very old references before year 2000.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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