Author's response to reviews

Title: Modifiable risk factors for overweight and obesity in children and adolescents from Sao Paulo, Brazil

Authors:

Scott Duncan (scott.duncan@aut.ac.nz)
Elizabeth K Duncan (libduncan@gmail.com)
Romulo A Fernandes (romulo_ef@yahoo.com.br)
Camila Buonani (camilabuonani@yahoo.com.br)
Karolynne DN Bastos (karolynne@fct.unesp.br)
Aline FM Segatto (aline@fct.unesp.br)
Jamil S Codogno (jamilecodogno@hotmail.com)
Igor C Gomes (igorconterato@hotmail.com)
Ismael F Freitas Jr (ismael@fct.unesp.br)

Version: 2 Date: 17 May 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof Siziya

Thank you for the opportunity to resubmit the manuscript entitled ‘Modifiable risk factors for overweight and obesity in children and adolescents from São Paulo, Brazil’ (MS: 2021116952472737). We have highlighted all changes made to the original submission.

Please find below the point-by-point responses to the comments of the reviewers. We would like to express our gratitude for the thoughtful and constructive commentary provided by both reviewers. The subsequent changes have resulted in significant improvements to the manuscript.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or concerns regarding this re-submission.

Kind regards

Dr Scott Duncan
Associate Director
Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition
Auckland University of Technology
Private Bag 92006
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: +649-921-9999 ext 7678
Fax: +649-921-9746
E-mail: scott.duncan@aut.ac.nz

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer #1</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Please number lines</td>
<td>Line numbers added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) It would be probably worth mentioning the statistical test used and the exact number results in the abstract section</td>
<td>While the sheer number of significant associations precludes the quantification of each comparison in the abstract, we have added a reference to the statistical tests and significance values as requested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Page 2, line 12: ‘less developed north-eastern regions’, how less or more developed regions are defined?</td>
<td>According to IBGE (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística) the per capita income of São Paulo State is R$24,456.86 and from Presidente Prudente is R$15,435.91. We have included a reference to the source of the definition in the text (Page 4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Page 15, line 16. Authors correctly mention that causality cannot be implied due to the cross-sectional nature of this study. But was there any information collected from the subjects regarding changes in their diet recently or during the last years? Or for example, where any children given medical/professional advice in order to lose weight?</td>
<td>This is an interesting comment; unfortunately these data are not available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Page 7, methods. Could you please give more details about the questionnaire, the possible answers or how the portions were defined?</td>
<td>Certainly: We have added a section describing the potential answers to each questions and how the portions were defined on page 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer #2</td>
<td>Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ABSTRACT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result: the first sentence is not written well and may say &quot;while 8.9% of male and 4.3 of female are obese.&quot;</td>
<td>Thank you for the feedback. We have corrected the sentence in question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2- In &quot;The prevalence of overweight and obesity was greater in boys and in younger children when compared to girls and older children, respectively&quot; the word greater is not appropriate</td>
<td>We have changed ‘greater’ to ‘higher’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3- in the paragraph of the results it is not clear what is adjusted for and what is significantly associated factor …”After controlling for differences in sex, age, and parental education, computer usage, parental encouragement, and light soft drink consumption showed significantly positive associations with the odds of overweight&quot; this need to be clarified</td>
<td>We agree that this was not clear, and have rewritten the sentence accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4- the word positively and negative association is not appropriate…use associated with more or associated with less.</td>
<td>We have made the requested changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion is Ok but how can you modify the three significant factors mentioned it is a big challenge</td>
<td>We agree this is a big challenge, but determining the best way to do this is beyond the scope of this descriptive study.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTRODUCTION**

Is ok and up to point Thank you.

**METHODS**

Need further detail of number of school in the region and method of school inclusion and then method of sampling per age and if any body refused how many and why and are this going to affect the sampling by any bias We have provided the requested information in the Methods section (Page 6).
**RESULTS**

1- Language need to be adjusted by an expert example "Overweight and obesity decreased significantly as age group increased in both boys and girls" need to add overweight and obesity prevalence."

We have made the recommended modification.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The conclusion should clarify what mean by in negative way

We have modified the sentence to read 'other factors that were associated with lower odds of overweight'.