Reviewer's report

Title: Household Secondhand Smoke Exposure of Elementary Schoolchildren in Southern Taiwan and their Confidence in Avoiding Exposure: a Cross-sectional Study

Version: 1 Date: 26 October 2011

Reviewer: Anitha Menon

Reviewer's report:

1. Discretionary revisions: Avoid interchangeably using primary school and elementary school. It would also be useful to specify the grades that constitute elementary school in Taiwan.

2. Minor essential revisions: The following needs to be addressed: Randomization method must be made explicit, both for choosing schools and class. Did any parents refuse to take part in the study? Was accent obtained from the participants? What was done to ensure that the participants (children) understood the study and their rights in regard to being research participants? Various spelling, grammatical errors appear throughout the paper which must be corrected.

3. Major compulsory revisions: The aims and objectives of the study must be brought out clearly. What is the age of the participants? Explain if the measures administered in English? If so is English the language of instruction in the schools? If not, why did the researchers opt to use English? Justify the use of the measures; especially that many of them were not standardized. How reliable were they? The study seems to suggest a strong relationship between knowledge and behavior and this must be brought out in the title. When reporting results from chi square and independent t test, the chi square value and t value, along with mean must be reported.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.