Reviewer's report

**Title:** Burden of Disease Resulting from Chronic Mountain Sickness Among Young Chinese Male Immigrants in Tibet

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 15 January 2012

**Reviewer:** Hwee Pin Phua

**Reviewer's report:**

Reviewer’s report on "Burden of Disease Resulting from Chronic Mountain Sickness Among Young Chinese Male Immigrants in Tibet" by Xiaoxiao Li et al.

This review is reported by: Hwee Pin PHUA, MSc (Biostatistics)
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For this paper, some suggestions and comments are listed as follows:

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Page 7, line 14: The authors had assumed the duration of one subject’s CMS symptoms was an entire one year and the severity of the CMS symptoms was averaged across the year. How was the severity of symptoms for a subject obtained across the year? There was no mentioned that the same subject was followed up across the year. Also, was the same duration assumed for each level of severity?

**Minor Essential Revisions**

2. Page 3, 3rd para: Some explanations are somewhat redundant. It would be good to rewrite this paragraph to explain clearly how the decline in health status caused by CMS has been underestimated in the past, and why it is important to evaluate the disease burden of CMS in the population of interest.

3. Page 3, last para, line 2: “…taking into account not only premature death but also physical impairments due to ill-health and the duration of illness.” Suggest the sentence to be changed to “…taking into account healthy years of life lost due to premature death as well as ill-health.”

4. Page 4, 3rd para on “Selection of population groups”, line 2: It was stated that the conditions in the areas selected as the study areas were considered to be representative. Please specify explicitly what these conditions are.

5. Page 5, line 1: What are the other severe chronic diseases excluded?

6. Page 7, line 10 from the bottom: Please elaborate further on the formula used in the multiplicative adjustment method or provide example to show how it is applied in this study.
7. Page 9, line 11: “Finally, there was no significant difference between the regular infantry and the support categories.” What is not significantly different between the two categories? Please state.

Discretionary Revisions

8. Page 4, 3rd para on “Selection of population groups”, last line: What exactly constitute each unit and how were the servicemen assigned to each unit?

9. Page 10, 2nd last para on “Discussion”: Are there other locally derived disease weights for disease conditions other than CMS in Tibet? If so, how does these weights compare with those derived for CMS in this study?

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

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