Reviewer's report

Title: The association between neighborhood greenness and cardiovascular disease: an observational study

Version: 2 Date: 26 March 2012

Reviewer: Zhiyong Hu

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The subdivision of NDVI and SD of NDVI into low, moderate, high: What criteria did you use to set the break values? E.g., why do you think NDVI is high if it is greater than 0.10? If you change the break values, do you expect that your statistical analysis will have same results?

2. The paper needs to discuss/explain more why the disease is associated with the variability of greenness than the absolute level of greenness.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. What does “service area” mean? What does “1600m” mean? Figures 1 and 2 show two 1.6 km service areas of irregular shapes. What does the 1.6 km measure? Perimeter? Radius (but they are not circle)? I thought 1600m was circular buffer distance around home, but they are actually not circle. I am very confused.

2. While Table 1 shows the distributions of socio-demographic, biological, health behavior risk factors, the paper does not show the distribution of greenness, which is the focus of the research.

3. In Table 3 2 and 3, what do the bold numbers mean? Significant?

Discretionary Revisions

1. Methods, paragraph 1, “Cross-sectional… who … who… metropolitan area” has grammar error. This is not a sentence.

2. Discussion, parag. 2, line 2. Add “by” after “influenced”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.