Author’s response to reviews

Title: The association of leisure-time physical activity and active commuting with measures of socioeconomic position in a multiethnic population living in the Netherlands: results from the cross-sectional SUNSET study

Authors:

Jeroen SL de Munter (j.s.demunter@amc.uva.nl)
Charles Agyemang (c.o.agyemang@amc.uva.nl)
Lizzy M Brewster (l.m.brewster@amc.uva.nl)
Karien Stronks (k.stronks@amc.uva.nl)
Irene GM van Valkengoed (i.g.vanvalkengoed@amc.uva.nl)

Version: 3 Date: 24 August 2012

Author’s response to reviews: see over
August 24, 2012

Dear editor,

Enclosed you will find our updated manuscript “The association of leisure-time physical activity and active commuting with measures of socioeconomic position in a multiethnic population living in the Netherlands: results from the cross-sectional SUNSET study”.

In this updated version of our manuscript we have taken the comments of both reviewers into account (see below). Please find the updated manuscript with the changed sentences highlighted in yellow. Additionally, we have added one extra sentence containing a project grant and number in the acknowledgements.

We look forward to your decision.

Yours truly,
Dr Jeroen de Munter, Dr Charles Agyemang, Dr Lizzy Brewster, Prof Karien Stronks, and Dr Irene van Valkengoed

Reply to reviewer comments, second revision (14th of August 2012)

Reviewer: Amy A Eyler
Reviewer's report:
No major revisions.
Minor: please review headings, there seems to be duplicate main findings discussion heading.
Discretionary: Add a sentence about length of time since data was collected.

Answer: We thank the reviewer for her assessment of the revised paper. We have removed the second heading “discussion of main findings” from the discussion section (see page 11, line 19). Additionally, we have added a sentence about length of time since data was collected in the limitation section. “The data were collected between 2001 and 2003. Since then, circumstances may have changed.” (see page 16, line 17-18).
**Reviewer:** Christopher Gidlow  
**Reviewer’s report:**  
The authors have addressed the points raised. The only one that I think should be revisited:  
- **Original reviewer comment (regarding p.7, para 1):**  
(b) in the context of physical activity research, as you are not taking occupational activity into account and focusing on commuting and LTPA, likely and unaccounted impacts on peoples LTPA (and perhaps, to a lesser extent, commuting activity) of having active jobs, could seriously confound your results.  
- **Authors amended sentence in the text (p16, lines 8-10):**  
‘Moreover, we can not exclude the influence of job activity on LTPA [49], however in our study population this relationship was similar across ethnic groups (unpublished).’  
- **Recommendation** - This does not address the concern raised that you are not taking into account a potentially important physical activity domain that might be expected to differ between SE groups (occupational activity). I suggest you reword (assuming I have interpreted your 2nd sentence correctly?):  
‘Moreover, the focus on LTPA and active commuting meant that we could not take into account potential socio-economic differences in occupational activity. However in our study population the relationship between leisure-time/active commuting and occupational physical activity was similar across ethnic groups (unpublished).’  

**Answer:** We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. The interpretation of our second sentence was indeed correct. We have now reworded the sentence according to the reviewer’s suggestion (see page 16, line 8-12).