Author's response to reviews

Title: Drownings in Sweden with emphasis on the presence of alcohol and drugs - a retrospective study, 1992-2009

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Mr Dizon,

Thank you for your mail regarding our manuscript MS: 5707964297663797, “Drownings in Sweden with emphasis on the presence of alcohol and drugs – a retrospective study, 1992-2009”.

Here are the answers to your questions.

1. The databases of Swedish National Board of Forensic Medicine are not open sources.
   I am working as a researcher at the Section of Forensic Medicine, Umeå University and have collaboration with the National Board of Forensic Medicine.
   However, for every study using these databases there is a need for approval from the responsible person for the security (Ingela Dahlin). For the present study, I have obtained an approval to use the autopsy and toxicological data extracted from these databases.
   According to Swedish regulations, ethical approval is not required for register studies of deceased persons.
   In previous publications presenting register studies using these databases of deceased persons we haven’t included any specification about the permissions.
   I believe that it is not necessary to include the information above in our manuscript but if it’s requested by BMC Public Health we will of course include a paragraph in Material and Methods section.

2. I am sorry that I missed to include e-mail addresses of all authors. They are now included in the title page of the new updated manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Kristin Ahlm, corresponding author