Author's response to reviews

Title: Work ability assessment in a workers' population, comparison of Work Ability Index and Work Ability score

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor in Chief,

We are pleased to resubmit for publication in BMC Public Health the enclosed manuscript which analyses the use of work ability assessments, on a large and systematic scale, within the occupational health surveillance system of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. The workers population targeted by this assessment involved more than half the working population in Luxembourg.

Based on a large medical database, our study compared the relative merits of the Work Ability Index (WAI), a 7-items tool, and of the Work ability score, a single item tool, when screening work ability in the day to day practice of health surveillance as carried out by occupational health physicians. We are convinced that our observations could be applied to the more general context of public health surveys.

As asked by your editorial staff on June 1st, we have now documented within the Methods section of our manuscript in which way the data we have used are available to any interested researcher. The following sentence has been added on page 6: “The database of this study is available upon request (through L M-L author) to each researcher, as asked by the National Research Fund (FNR) of Luxembourg.”

We hope that you can thus proceed with the peer review process of our manuscript.

We look forward receiving the comments and criticisms of your Journal reviewers.

Sincerely yours

In the name of this manuscript five other authors,

Philippe Mairiaux, MD, Ph.D.