Author’s response to reviews

Title: An observational study to assess changes in social inequality in smoking-attributable upper aero digestive tract cancer mortality among Canadian males between 1986 and 2001

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Author’s response to reviews:

Revision note

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript entitled: "An observational study to assess changes in social inequality in smoking-attributable upper aero digestive tract cancer mortality among Canadian males between 1986 and 2001". We have carefully considered the comments from the reviewers and have revised the manuscript by incorporating their valuable suggestions. With these changes we hope that you will find the manuscript suitable for publication.

Reviewer: Silvano Gallus

Dr. Gallus states that this manuscript is concise and well-written. The main concerns are regarding the limitations of the study design and the implications derived from the study. We completely agree with Dr. Gallus’s concerns and have tried to address all the limitations in the discussion section. We thank Dr. Gallus for his advice to integrate the results of a study done by Reid et al. in the discussion section. This study also indicates that although relative inequalities in smoking prevalence increased but absolute reductions were observed in all educational strata. As per the suggestion, we have deleted the implications related to tobacco control efforts. Results of Table 1 and Figure 1 have also been reviewed. Hope Dr. Gallus finds the revision satisfactory.

Reviewer: Zubair Kabir

Dr. Kabir states that it is an interesting research which is well presented. As for the concerns raised regarding some explanations and interpretations pertaining to results, we have tried to incorporate them in methodology and results section. As per the suggestion we have included a table as well which depicts smoking prevalence, at various time intervals, in Canada. Hope Dr. Kabir will be satisfied with the revised version.