Author's response to reviews

Title: Culture, Acculturation and Tobacco Use among the Hmong, Khmer, Laotians, and Vietnamese Communities in Minnesota

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Author's response to reviews: see over
September 9, 2013

Dr. Natalie Pafitis
Executive Editor, BMC Public Health

Dear Dr. Pafitis:

On behalf of my co-authors, I am submitting a manuscript for publication in *BMC Public Health* entitled, “Culture, Acculturation and Tobacco Use among the Hmong, Khmer, Laotians, and Vietnamese Communities in Minnesota.”

This manuscript is based on the results of a community-based participatory research study involving semi-structured interviews with key informants from the Hmong, Khmer (Cambodian), Laotian, and Vietnamese communities, in which we examined how tobacco use patterns in these communities have been shaped by culture, immigration, and adjustment to life in America. To our knowledge, this is the first study to provide an in-depth examination of tobacco use within these ethnic groups. Our results point to the key changes in tobacco-related attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, which occurred within the context of shifting power, status, and gender roles within their communities, and have practical implications for developing policy and interventions. These results suggest that older Southeast Asians are likely to benefit from culturally-tailored programs (e.g., the values of politeness; the importance of acting in ways that benefit the family, community, and clan) and programs that work with existing social structures, as well as initiatives that address smokers’ psychological distress and social isolation. Results also underscore the strong concern about how to address smoking uptake among youth, pointing to a need for future research and practical support for these communities.

The following revisions were made to reflect the suggestions of the *BMC Health Service Research* editors as part of our manuscript transfer to *BMC Public Health*: 1) The authors added a statement indicating that written informed consent was obtained from participant to the Method section; 2) the authors added a statement at the end of the manuscript declaring no competing interests; 3) the lead author also included a statement outlining the contribution of each author.

The contents of this manuscript have not been previously published and the current manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere. This manuscript does not contain data that is currently submitted or published elsewhere. All authors listed on the manuscript have contributed sufficiently to the paper, have approved the paper, and declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Below are suggestions for potential reviewers:
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit our work to *BMC Public Health*.

Sincerely,

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