Author's response to reviews

Title: Methodological aspects of a GIS-based environmental health inspection program used in the Athens 2004 Olympic and Para Olympic Games

Authors:

Christos Hadjichristodoulou (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)
Elpidoforos S Soteriades (esoteria@hsph.harvard.edu)
Virginia Kolonia (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)
Matthew E Falagas (matthew.falagas@tufts.edu)
Efstathios Pantelopoulos (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)
Georgios Panagakos (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)
Varvara Mouchtouri (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)
Jeni Kremastinou (hadjich@ath.forthnet.gr)

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Author's response to reviews:

Athens August 10, 2005

To: The BioMed Central Editorial Team

Re: 'Methodological Aspects of a GIS-based Environmental Health Inspection Program used in the Athens 2004 Olympic and Para Olympic Games'

Dear Editor

We are pleased to submit a final version of the manuscript for your consideration. We have made every effort to modify our manuscript according to the editors' and reviewers' comments.

Below please find a point-by-point response to the additional comments provided. In addition, we have formatted our manuscript as requested.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me at (+30-6932264685) or via e-mail. I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christos Hadjichristodoulou, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology
22 Papakyriazi Street
41222 Larisa
Greece
Editors' Comments

1) As pointed out in our previous correspondence, we strongly urge you to translate the forms employed in the study from Greek to English and upload them as additional files with the revised version of your manuscript. We feel that these forms are a very relevant part of the study and thus, they will be of interest to readers and certainly valuable to researchers working in the field. We would require that, at the very least, the translated standardized inspection forms used for restaurants and swimming pools are included as part of the final version of your manuscript.

Although we agree that providing translated inspection forms would be helpful for other scientists, it was very difficult for us to translate all 17 inspection forms we had used during the Olympic Games. Given your suggestion, we have translated two of the most important inspection forms. We would be more than happy to provide translated versions to any particular researcher that might be interested in a specific inspection form other than the two we provide.

2) We would also ask that you make the formatting changes listed below, so that online production of your manuscript is straightforward. This is the proofing stage. All revised manuscripts submitted to BMC journals are regarded as being the final version. You will not be able to make any corrections to your article once it has been accepted and published in preliminary form. Therefore, before you submit the final version, we would like you to check your manuscript carefully for any typing errors or small changes to the text that you or your co-authors wish to make. This is important as any errors present in the manuscript will end up in the final published version. Please return your revised manuscript within one week.

We have reviewed our manuscript for any typing or other errors.

3) Author list - Please remove titles from the list of authors.

Title - Please use sentence case in the title, both in the manuscript file and the submission system (i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals).

Done.

4) Running title - Please remove the running title from the title page.

Keywords section - Please remove the keywords section from the manuscript.

Done.

5) Abstract - Please ensure that the Abstract in the submission system matches exactly that in the manuscript file.
Manuscript Sections

6) Section headings - Please use sentence case for all headings and sub-headings in the manuscript (i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals). Please remove underlines from sub-headings

Done.

7) Manuscript sections - Manuscript sections should include (in the following order): Abstract; Background; Methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; Abbreviations (if any); Competing interests; Authors’ contributions; Acknowledgements; References; Figure legends (if any); Tables (if any); Description of Additional files (if any).

Followed the order as suggested.

8) Section headings - Please use sentence case for all headings and sub-headings in the manuscript (i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals).

Done.

9) Introduction - Please rename this section 'Background'.

Conclusions - Please insert a Conclusions section after the Discussion.

Done.

10) Competing interests - Please include a 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors' contributions. If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.

Done.

11) Authors' contributions - Please include an Authors' contributions section between the Methods and Acknowledgements. Please refer to our instructions for authors on the journals website to determine who should be included as an author. Contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the acknowledgments section.

Done.

12) Authors' contributions - For the Authors' contributions we suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
13) Acknowledgements - Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study.

The source of funding has been acknowledged as suggested.

14) Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements. Please list the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity was the funding source for the execution of the study. However, the officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity did not have any involvement in the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data nor did they contributed to the writing and submission of the manuscript.

15) Acknowledgements - The role of a medical writer must be included in the acknowledgements section, including their source(s) of funding.

No medical writer has contributed to the manuscript other than the authors.

References

16) References - References should be cited in the text using consecutive numbers in square brackets.

Done.

17) References - In the manuscript text, please place the reference before the full stop.

References - The reference list should be formatted in the journal's style to enable us to create links to article abstracts on PubMed. An example journal reference is given below:


For further details please see our instructions for authors on the journal's website. You should pay particular attention to the journal name, ensuring that you use the correct medline abbreviation.

EndNote or Refman references - If your references are formatted using EndNote or Refman, please make any changes in the EndNote or Refman record, rather than editing the references in the manuscript manually.

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18) Website addresses - Please cite website addresses in the reference list and remove them from the
19) The figures should be cropped to minimise white space around the image. Our online figure cropping guide may be of some help, and can be viewed here: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/cropping

Done.

Reviewer 1: Dr. Maged Nabih Kamel Boulos

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Please include a colour map legend for Figure 4a (different dot shades and a short description beside each shade of red - within the figure itself), as with Figures 1-3.

Figure 4a was generated using Epi Map. Unfortunately the quality of figure legends within the figure, which are automatically produced by the program are not quite satisfactory and could actually mislead the reader instead of helping clarify the picture. Therefore, we did not include them into the figure. However, we think that the figure legend is self-explanatory.

2. Figures 4b and 5 should be cropped to remove Windows XP Taskbar (bottom of figures).

Done.

3. Please mention the software featured in Figures 4b and 5 in the corresponding figure captions, e.g. 'Screenshot of Epi Map (part of US CDC Epi Info package - http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo/downloads.htm) showing...'

Done, thank you.

Reviewer 2: Louisa Jorm

No further comments.

Thank you.