Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender differentials in the evolution of cigarette smoking habits in a general European adult population from 1993-2003

Authors:

Michael C Costanza (michael.costanza@hcuge.ch)
Julian Salamun (julien.salamun@hcuge.ch)
Alan D Lopez (a.lopez@sph.uq.edu.au)
Alfredo Morabia (a.morabia@hcuge.ch)

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Dear Editor,

The manuscript entitled “Gender differentials in the evolution of cigarette smoking habits in a general European adult population from 1993-2003”, by myself, Mr. Julien Salamun, Prof. Alan D. Lopez, and Prof. Alfredo Morabia, is being submitted for publication as a Research Article in BMC Public Health.

Reliable findings that current cigarette smoking remained stable in Geneva men and women during the continuously monitored 11-year period from 1993 through 2003 may superficially suggest a stability of cigarette smoking patterns. However, this apparent stability masks two fundamentally different smoking behavior processes by gender which are characterized in the paper. In addition, it is suggested how the smoking epidemic model proposed in 1994 by Prof. Lopez and colleagues (Ref. 16) may need to be updated if it is to be useful for further tobacco control efforts in the 21st century.

The manuscript is being submitted exclusively to BMC Public Health. The manuscript has been read and approved by all four authors, all of whom meet the requirements for authorship and have no conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

Prof. Michael C. Costanza