Author's response to reviews

Title: Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Chamorros

Authors:

Binh Chiem (bchiem@ucsd.edu)
Victoria Nguyen (v19nguye@ucsd.edu)
Phillis L Wu (plwu@ucsd.edu)
Celine M Ko (cmko@ucsd.edu)
Lee Ann Cruz (lcruz@san.rr.com)
Georgia R Sadler (gsadler@ucsd.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 14 November 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Alexander Pemberton, PhD  
BioMed Central  

November 14, 2006  

REFERENCE: MS: 1941875258956292  
Cardiovascular Risk Factors among Chamorros Binh Chiem, Victoria Nguyen, Phillis L Wu, Celine M Ko, Lee Ann Cruz and Georgia R Sadler  

Dear Dr. Pemberton,  

We appreciate the thorough review our manuscript has received. We recognize that this is a small community, and as such it becomes virtually invisible to the medical and scientific community. This article was the consequence of the community leaders approaching their local University and asking for assistance assessing the health and well being of their community and identifying where they should focus on creating health interventions. As researchers, we struggled with the dearth of data related to the Chamorro community and vowed to put into the mainstream everything we felt to be of value to the community at-large as well as other researchers and clinicians who care for members of this community. Thank you for this opportunity to share our data. We specifically selected BioMed Central because our information would be accessible to the largest possible audience.

We appreciate the comments of all the reviewers in helping us to make this article as strong and informative as it can possibly be. We are specifically addressing the comments of interviewer #4 on the following points:

1. The authors mentioned combining data from BRFSS and The Chamorro Directory International, but it is unclear what if any data was used from BRFSS.

We have addressed this need for further clarification in the methods section and again in the Methods section.

2. I suggest that the last paragraph in the methods about correlations be deleted since the authors do not examine correlations but rather present descriptive data within sub-groups.

We reworded the paragraph to reflect that we discussed frequencies rather than correlations.

3. Also in the results they should delete the multiple sentences at the end of each paragraph saying what data where not presented, but rather have one sentence in the methods presenting the strategy about what is or is not presented in the results.
We agree that these sentences should be removed. They were added at the request of one of the earlier reviewers.

Sincerely,

Georgia Robins Sadler, M.B. A., Ph.D.
Clinical Professor of Surgery
UCSD School of Medicine