Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased Standardized Incidence Ratio of Breast Cancer in Female Electronics Workers: Is it Related to Trichloroethylene Exposure?

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To: Editor-in-Chief, *BMC Public Health.*

Dear Sir:

5 November 2006

Attached please find my manuscript entitled "Increased standardized incidence ratio (SIR) of breast cancer in female electronics workers: Is it related to trichloroethylene exposure?" The manuscript is submitted for your consideration to be published as a research article in your esteemed journal. The paper has not been simultaneously submitted to any other journal.

The manuscript has summarized the experience of Taiwan in the course of solvent exposure and female electronic workers have developed suspected occupational breast cancer. A retrospective cohort study was conducted to determine if there was an increased risk of breast cancer incidence among these workers employed by a company with environmental contamination history. We found a significant increase of SIR for workers who were first employed prior to 1974, when strict regulations were promulgated. Prior qualitative studies of interviews with the workers, corroborated by previous inspection records, showed a short-term high exposure to chlorinated alkanes and alkenes, probably trichloroethylene, prior to 1974. Thus, we like to share our experience and call for further corroborative studies and relevant precautionary measures be taken for occupational and environmental exposure to TCE.

Correspondence about the paper should be directed to me at the following address:

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Thank you for your attention to this matter and we are looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

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