Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic and racial/ethnic differentials of C-reactive protein levels: a systematic review of population-based studies

Version: 1 Date: 20 June 2007

Reviewer: Guangping Li

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors performed a systematic review to evaluate possible relationship between socioeconomic and racial/ethnic differentials and C-reactive protein levels. To the best of my knowledge, it is the first systematic review regarding this issue. The results showed increasing poverty and non-white race was associated with elevated CRP levels. The presentation of the paper and the interpretation of results are quite clear but some issues should be addressed.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. This systematic review didn’t perform quantitative analysis of the relationship between socioeconomic and racial/ethnic differentials and C-reactive protein levels.

2. The literature searching and data extracting work of this study should be done by two or three independent investigators.

3. In results section of abstract, Page 2, line 16, “25 and 15 articles” should be “25 and 15 analyses”, and the similar issues should be corrected in other parts of the article, such as Page 9, Paragraph 2.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.