Author's response to reviews

Title: The New Zealand Asthma and Allergy Cohort Study (NZA2CS): Assembly, Demographics and Investigations

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The Editors
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Re: The New Zealand Asthma and Allergy Cohort Study (NZA2CS): Assembly, Demographics and Investigations

Thank you for your email about the above manuscript. We are grateful to the reviewers for their suggestions. We have made some minor adjustments to the manuscript to incorporate these suggestions where possible.

Regarding Major Compulsory Revisions from reviewer Marks, the manuscript has been altered to clarify that there were no specific exclusion criteria in the peri-natal period, and that any neonatal complications / illness was documented in those recruited. Non-singleton pregnancies were not an exclusion, and there are twins participating in the cohort. The criteria for a positive skin prick test at 6 years have been clarified.

We have made some minor alterations regarding the collection of infant feeding and diet data.

The issue of proportions of births in the two regions enrolled into the study is addressed in the discussion section of the paper. This information was not available, but we are confident, for reasons detailed, that this cohort is representative of the New Zealand population in those regions at the time.

We have made minor amendments to the Introduction to emphasise the specific aims of the study.

We hope these changes are satisfactory to the Editors, and look forward to hearing your response about publication.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael Epton
On behalf of the Authors