Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychological, social and biological determinants of ill health (pSoBid): Background, design and recruitment characteristics of a population-based study

Authors:

Yoga Velupillai (Yoga.Velupillai@drs.glasgow.gov.uk)
Chris J Packard (chris.packard@btinternet.com)
Batty G David (david-b@sphsu.mrc.ac.uk)
Vladimir Bezlyak (vladimir@stats.gla.ac.uk)
Harry Burns (cmo@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)
Jonathan Cavanagh (J.Cavanagh@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Kevin Deans (kevindeans@nhs.net)
Ian Ford (ian@stats.gla.ac.uk)
Agnes McGinty (A.McGinty@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Keith Millar (K.Millar@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Naveed Sattar (nsattar@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Paul Shiels (p.sheils@clinmed.gla.ac.uk)
Carol Tannahill (carol.tannahill@drs.glasgow.gov.uk)

Version: 2 Date: 8 February 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir

Re: Psychological, social and biological determinants of ill-health (pSoBid): Background, design and recruitment characteristics of a population-based study.

We submit for your consideration the above manuscript. It describes the design, and characteristics of the recruited cohort of a study of the determinants of ill-health in deprived communities in Glasgow. We believe it will be of interest to your Public Health audience because of the potential to investigate interrelationships between chronic, inflammatory and associated biomarkers (endothelial dysfunction, insulin resistance) and atherosclerosis and mental outlook from a population perspective. Few studies in Public Health, to our knowledge have such a broad ranging approach to investigate the determinants of ill-health in the population.

Further, our ability to investigate the characteristics of subjects in the sample who did not respond to the invitation to participate (by using GP electronic records - GPASS) provides useful insight into the nature of non-respondents which is usually lacking in epidemiological investigations.