Author's response to reviews

Title: Unemployment and ill health: a connection through inflammation?

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Unemployment and ill health: a connection through inflammation?

Dear Editor,

I submit the revised version of our manuscript “Unemployment and ill health: a connection through inflammation?”. We thank the Editor and the Reviewers for your interest in our manuscript. We have made one revision asked by one of the reviewers and hope that the paper now is worth of publishing in BMC Public Health.

Our detailed response to the Reviewer is as follows:
Reviewer: Nicolas Rohleder

“Only one point remains: in responding to my second comment, the authors have added a limitations section in the discussion. Here they say that the measurement using xMAP technology revealed “somewhat low levels”. I don’t
believe that this statement is correct, and I should have made my point clearer. In fact, luminex measurements of unstimulated plasma IL-6 reveal levels that are higher than those obtained with ELISA techniques. ...I agree that this does not invalidate the study’s findings, but it makes comparisons between studies difficult and should therefore be discussed.”

Our current revised text is as follows: “We used the Luminex method in cytokine analyses. Luminex measurements of unstimulated plasma IL-6 levels may be different from those obtained with traditional enzyme-linked immunosorbant assays (ELISA), the gold standard of current peptide immunoassays. This may make comparisons between studies difficult. However, the correlation between the Luminex method and other multiplex assays has been shown to be sufficient, and the correlations between multiplex analyses and traditional ELISA techniques have also been demonstrated to be high in several papers [24, 25, 26, 27, 28]. In our study, regardless of the observed overall levels of IL-6 and hs-CRP, an elevated inflammatory status associated independently with unemployment. Finally, a limitation of the current study is that the samples were not assayed in a duplicate. However, the measurement principle of the Luminex assay method could overrule this limitation, at least partially, as the values obtained for the measured analyte were average values based on 100 bead measurements.”

Yours sincerely,

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