Author's response to reviews

Title: A systematic review of musculoskeletal disorders in the teaching profession

Authors:

Patience N Erick (patience.erick@uon.edu.au)
Derek R Smith (Derek.Smith@newcastle.edu.au)

Version: 2 Date: 26 October 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
26th October 2011
University of Newcastle
10 Chittaway Road
Ourimbah NSW 2258
Australia

Dear Dr Patel,

We would like to thank you for considering our submission to your journal. We appreciate the reviewers’ comments and your positive feedback.

We have incorporated the reviewers’ comments into our manuscript, as follows:

- University academic staff articles have been excluded from this review as per the reviewers’ advice and the title of the review has been changed to reflect focus on studies of school teachers only.
- Exclusion criteria have been added to the methods.
- The results and discussion have been divided into subheadings as requested.
- Psychosocial factors have been added to the discussion.
- In the results, under risk factors, third paragraph, where the reviewer did not understand the meaning of the “P”s: the sentences have been reconstructed for clarity.
- In the discussion, where the reviewer did not understand the last two rows: about differences: the rows have been deleted as they were making reference to university academic staff who have since been removed from the review.
- Conclusion has been worked on with the reviewer’s comments incorporated in.
- The conclusion that "physical education teachers have been found to have the lowest MSD prevalence in various body regions except for the knees" has been removed as the conclusion cannot be drawn from only one study.
- Limitations of the review have been discussed.
- The word “complain” has been replaced by “report” as suggested.
• The word “surprisingly” has been removed from the text as it had been used in reference to studies of university academic staff who have been removed from this review.

We are confident that our revised article will be of great interest to not only the readers of your journal, but also to readers of other journals in this field.

We appreciate your consideration of our revised manuscript and trust that it meets with your favourable consideration.

Best regards,

Patience Erick & Derek Smith