Author's response to reviews

Title: The relation between body mass index and musculoskeletal symptoms in the working population.

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Author's response to reviews:

January 2nd, 2013

Dear editor,

In response to the editorial request we provide a point-by-point description of the changes made:

*Ethics:

The present paper reports on non-experimental research; questionnaires (cross-sectional as well as longitudinal data) are used to study the associations described in the manuscript.

Processing of personal data is in accordance with the Dutch Data Processing Act (Wet bescherming persoonsgegevens, Wpb).

*Requesting consent statement:

Only data from consenting employees (employees who filled in the questionnaire) were analysed. Follow-up questionnaires were sent to employees who gave consent for being contacted in the future. This is added in the methods section.

The following headings have been added, and placed directly after the discussion/conclusions section in the manuscript:

*Competing interests:

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

*Authors’ contributions

LV conceived of the study, performed the statistical analysis, and drafted the manuscript. LK was responsible for the coordination of the data collection. LK,
EV, KOH, AB, and PB were involved in the design of the study, and contributed to the interpretation of the data. All authors contributed to the manuscript by reading and correcting draft versions. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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An updated version of the manuscript has been provided as well.

Yours sincerely,

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