Author's response to reviews

Title: Individual and occupational risk factors for knee osteoarthritis - study protocol of a case control study

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Author's response to reviews:

BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders
Melissa Norton, MD
Editor-in-Chief
Dear colleague,

please find enclosed our manuscript for a research article depicting the study protocol of a case control study designed to detect possible work-related risk factors for knee osteoarthritis.

The issue is an important research question as prevention of diseases of knee cartilage have to cover occupational health and safety, too.

After scientific review the study receives public funding by the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) and was approved by the responsible ethics committee (see attached files).

In december 2007, we submitted this manuscript to the journal Arthritis Research & Therapy. As study protocols fall outside the scope of this journal, the editorial bureau recommended the publication in your journal.

We will be most pleased if you find this manuscript worthy of publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Monika A. Rieger, MD