Reviewer’s report

Title: Metabolic syndrome among a middle-aged population in the Red River Delta region of Vietnam

Version: 2 Date: 8 July 2014

Reviewer: Panagiotis Tsapogas

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well composed paper about a cross-sectional study of the prevalence of metabolic syndrome (MetS) and its components in a rural province of Vietnam. The authors have been through great efforts on collecting their data using a grant from Vietnam’s National Foundation for Science and Technology Development. They have exploited most recent criteria of MetS (adapted for Asians), and they have examined most known risk factors for it. Their methods are appropriate and well defined.

This is a good study for publication, since it sheds light on a population not well examined in the past. It is also important because the MetS, its complications and its risk factors are becoming considerable issues in the developing countries, posing possible threats for the health of their people in the future.

The discussion is well balanced, showing the burden of MetS in the region; comparing the results of this study with those of similar observational studies in Vietnam and other countries of South East Asia; pinpointing certain interesting findings among the components of MetS; and explaining the authors’ statistical approach. Yet I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

The authors state the limitations of the study clearly, and the writing is acceptable. I have found no issues against publication.

Just one correction: The word ‘countries’ is missing in the second sentence of the fifth paragraph of Discussion, after the word ‘European’.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.