Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors and symptoms associated with work stress and health-promoting lifestyles among hospital staff: a pilot study in Taiwan

Authors:

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Version: 3 Date: 19 June 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
June 19, 2012

Simon Harold PhD
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Dear Dr. Harold:

Thank you for the opportunity to again revise our manuscript MS: 1152461970570951, entitled “Factors and symptoms associated with work stress and health-promoting lifestyles among hospital staff: a cross-sectional study.” We have addressed each point raised by the reviewers and describe our revisions below. We believe that these revisions have greatly improved the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Chieh-Hsing, Liu, PhD
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Referee 1:
Title: Factors and symptoms associated with work stress and health-promoting lifestyles among hospital staff: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2012

Reviewer: Olaf von dem Knesebeck

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for considering my comments on the previous version of the manuscript. I still have doubts concerning language, methods, and some statements in the text.

- You should avoid phrases like "Female workers were found to have a significantly higher chance of developing stress-related symptoms..." that indicate a prospective design.

Response: All such phrases have been revised to avoid any suggestion of a
prospective design.

- You conclude that "this study showed that participants believed that they had relative little decision-making authority and a relatively high need for support from coworkers and supervisors." (p. 13, see also p. 17) I don't understand this conclusion. Do you have a benchmark or a comparison with other occupational groups in mind? Please provide references.

**Response:** There is an association between these factors and stress-related symptoms but no cause-effect relationship. All suggestions of a causal relationship have been eliminated.

- It should be mentioned in the title that this is a pilot study and that it is a study from Taiwan.

**Response:** This has been done.

- Please describe the measurement of symptoms of work related stress.

  **Response:** “Symptoms related to work-related stress” was part of the self-reported questionnaire. The symptoms were chosen from related articles in the literature [Krantz et al, 2005; Ekvall Hansson et al., 2009; Estryn-Behar et al., 1990] and the outcome of an expert panel discussion. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient for this part of the questionnaire was 0.87. This information and additional references have been added.

- Please introduce all abbreviations in the text.

  **Response:** This has been done.

- There is an underlined sentence on page 5.

  **Response:** The underline has been deleted.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

**Response:** The English usage and syntax have been corrected by a native-English speaking member of the American Medical Writers Association.

**Related references**
