Reviewer’s report

Title: Impacts of highway traffic exhaust in alpine valleys on the respiratory health in adults: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 13 September 2010

Reviewer: Jordi Sunyer

Reviewer’s report:

1. I was unable to read any comment about the migrants (in/out) which could be essential in a cross-sectional study. I suggest: a) do a sensitivity analysis after excluding the migrants; b) comment on that in the Discussion.

2. Given than less than 5% in all exposure groups had low education, they could adjust for more categories of the variable education in order to avoid residual confounding by social class. One idea is to use education in years, another education in several categories, not only as a dichotomous variable.

3. Introduction is too long and could be reduced.

4. Table 2 and Figure 3 could include a legend indicating the variables included in the multivariate model.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.