Author's response to reviews

Title: Integrated Exposure Assessment of Sewage Workers to Genotoxicants: an Urinary Biomarker Approach and Oxidative stress Evaluation

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Author's response to reviews: see over
COVER LETTER

Nablus, Palestine, March 02, 2011

Manuscript title: Integrated Exposure Assessment of Sewage Workers to Genotoxicants: an Urinary Biomarker Approach and Oxidative stress Evaluation"

Manuscript ID: 1403623043484898

Editors in Chief
BMC Environmental Health

Dear Prof. Philippe Grandjean, University of Southern Denmark; and Prof. David Ozonoff, Boston University School of Public Health

It is a pleasure for us to submit this revised version of our paper entitled “Integrated Exposure Assessment of Sewage Workers to Genotoxicants: an Urinary Biomarker Approach and Oxidative stress Evaluation”.

In the cover letter (see below), we answered the reviewer comments as precisely as possible. To make your reading easier, we indicated our new modifications using a different font color “Purple”.

We thank you for your attention, which gave us the opportunity to improve the manuscript. We hope it now meets your expectations.

With our kind regards

Hamzeh ALZABADI
Reviewer: Sergio Iavicoli

The revised manuscript can be published with some small corrections.

- Minor comments:

1) Table 4. substitute “coefficient #” with “coefficient #” (probably in my comments, sent by website, special character “#” was not recognized. However, it seems that the numbers remained the same that there were in the first version relative to “B values”, please substitute them.

Answer: This comment is unclear for us. We have asked the editors to provide us with further details concerning this comment, and their answer was that “We understand that this comment is unclear but correct the comments to the best of your ability for the while”.

Substitute “% DNA tail” with “tail DNA %”.

Answer: Done and corrected accordingly.

2) Methods

Page 7: Eliminate “and cell culture” from the title “Urinary fraction extraction and cell culture”.

Answer: Deleted accordingly.

Page 8, line 7: Add a new title to describe cell culture and exposure condition as “Cell culture and exposure”

Answer: Added accordingly.

In this paragraph eliminate the sentences reported from line 12 to line 21, starting from “Before the …..”, ending with “……..cell/ml”.

Answer: Eliminated accordingly.

Moreover, insert in the last part of this paragraph the following sentences (from line 24 pag 8 to line 2 pag 9): “HepG2 cells were cultivated…….. 95%”, that are relative to in vitro exposure conditions and to trypan blue test.

Answer: Inserted accordingly.
Editorial Team Message

We would be grateful if you could address the comments in a revised manuscript and provide a cover letter giving a point-by-point response to the concerns.

Answer: Addressed and provided accordingly.

Please also highlight (with 'tracked changes'/coloured/underlines/highlighted text) all changes made when revising the manuscript to make it easier for the Editors to give you a prompt decision on your manuscript. Please also ensure that your revised manuscript in all respects conforms to the journal style (http://www.ehjournal.net/info/instructions/). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

Answer: Correctly formatted accordingly.

Please add a space between numbers and units, e.g. 10 mL and not 10mL. Please correct reference #1, where the page numbers are given as 211-200.

Answer: Added and corrected accordingly.