Author's response to reviews

Title: Ambient pollutants, polymorphisms associated with microRNA processing and adhesion molecules: the Normative Aging Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Drs Ozonoff and Grandjean,

We thank the editors for the opportunity to respond to the comments made on our manuscript, entitled “Ambient pollutants, polymorphisms associated with microRNA processing and adhesion molecules: the Normative Aging Study.” Below is a point-by-point description of our responses.

Comment 1: The peer reviews are satisfied with the changes made. We would be grateful if you could address the formatting comments below in a revised manuscript and provide a cover letter giving a point-by-point response to the concerns. 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.

To ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style see the Instructions for Authors (http://www.ehjournal.net/info/instructions/). It is important that your files are correctly formatted. For sample layouts of title pages see already published articles. Namely, the title page should list the authors under the title as first name, last name in sentence format. The institutional addresses should come next with sequential superscript numbers placed in front and the same number(s) after the author's last name. Insert the heading *Corresponding author and place an * after the corresponding author's superscript number(s). Lastly, insert the heading Email addresses and list them as author's initials: email address.

Response 1: We appreciate the consideration of the editors. We have altered the format of the title page to correspond to the format requested by Environmental Health.

Comment 2: In the abstract section, remove the colons after the headings and the text should be moved below the headings.

Response 2: We have removed the colons and moved the text below headings.

Comment 3: Throughout the manuscript write 95% confidence interval as 95%CI and limit the number of abbreviations used in the abstract section.

Response 3: We have removed several of the abbreviations (‘black carbon’ instead of BC, ‘interquartile range’ instead of IQR) in the abstract and changed 95% CI to 95%CI in throughout the manuscript.

Comment 4: The abstract word count should be removed.

Response 4: The abstract word count has been removed.

Comment 5: The heading Introduction should be changed to Background. Only the first letter of headings should be capitalized.
Response 5: The heading has been changed and only the first letter is capitalized.

Comment 6: General numbers 0-9 should be written out and numbers that begin sentences must be written out e.g. page 7, Three SNPs.

Response 6: We have changed the general numbers to be written out.

Comment 7: All italicized text except where indicated in the references should be changed to normal font.

Response 7: The text for gene names was kept italicized in order to distinguish gene from protein. All other instances have been un-italicized, excluding where indicated in the references.

Comment 8: The List of Abbreviations should be formatted as abbreviation:term in sentence format separating the pairs with semi-colons. Above the Competing interests statement insert the heading Competing interests.

Response 8: We have reformatted the list of abbreviations and inserted the competing interests statement under the heading of ‘Competing interests.’

Comment 9: All text in the manuscript should be double-spaced. In the tables, all horizontal lines should be visible. The references section should be placed before the tables, the issue numbers deleted and the journal names italicized. Please correct the punctuation in reference 23 and list the full page reference for #45.

Response 9: We have double-spaced the manuscript. The punctuation for Ref 23 and the full page reference has been included for Ref 45.