Reviewer's report

Title: Chronic exposure to particulate matter in photocopier units causes oxidative stress and systemic inflammation among photocopier operators

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2013

Reviewer: ROBERT DALES

Reviewer's report:

Interesting and important occupational health study.
Good discussion.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Please describe the exposed and control group in more detail. Inflammatory markers are being attributed to photocopier exposure but these markers may be influenced by many things. Exactly what illnesses and medical disorders did the exposed and control group have, or did they not have (e.g. allergies, arthritis). What medications were they on. More detail about smoking and alcohol please. Socioeconomic status differences would be of interest since this may affect lifestyle and diet.

2) Please describe the occupations in more detail. How many hours daily are people exposed to copiers? What were the occupations of the control group?

3) Please describe the air quality measurement methodology and frequency and accuracy and validity.

4) Please present reproducibility and validation and quality control for the serum marker testing.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) please explain why did 30% have restrictive lung disease? This is very high.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

none