Author's response to reviews

Title: Xenoestrogenic activity in blood of European and Inuit populations.

Authors:

Eva C Bonefeld-Jorgensen (ebj@mil.au.dk)
Philip S Hjelmborg (phj@mil.au.dk)
Thayaline S Reinert (line_job1@hotmail.com)
Birgitte S Andersen (bsa@mil.au.dk)
Vladimir Lesovoy (dimusic@ic.kharkov.ua)
Christian H Lindh (Christian.Lindh@med.lu.se)
Lars Hagmar (lars.hagmar@ymed.lu.se)
Aleksander Giwercman (aleksander.giwercman@kir.mas.lu.se)
Mogens Erlandsen (mogens@biostat.au.dk)
Gian-Carlo Manicardi (manicardi.giancarlo@unimo.it)
Marcello Spano (spanomtc@mail.casaccia.enea.it)
Gunnar Toft (gutof@as.aaa.dk)
Jens Peter Bonde (jpbon@as.aaa.dk)

Version: 3 Date: 20 March 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
To Editor in Chief
David Ozonoff and Philippe Grandjean
Environmental Health

Concerning manuscript MS: 153 104 787 785 5340

Dear David Ozonoff,

Thank you very much for your comments and the second review of our manuscript entitled: “Xenoestrogenic activity in blood of European and Inuit Populations by Bonefeld-Jørgensen et al.”

We have made changes and shortened the manuscript according to your suggestions.
The manuscript has been shortened by approximately 6 pages, 2 tables and 20 references.

The manuscript has been rewritten in a more concise and clear version having the main result (the lack of consistent correlation across the study groups) in focus in the Results and Discussion section. Since our study, to my knowledge, is the first of its kind, which determines xenoestrogenic serum activities across geographical study groups, I think that the differences in xeno-bioactivity between the groups also deserves to be described for comparison to possible future studies of its kind.

We have chosen to pool the data of Greenlandic Inuit’s to obtain similar number of participants for each study group and thus similar statistical power for the four involved study groups.

Two tables have been taken out of the manuscript (previously Table 2B (Oneway-ANOVA and ad hoc comparisons data) and Table 3 (Spearman’s correlation) of which we suggest (the previous Table 3 with Spearman’s correlation data) to be supplementary.

We have introduced both the medians and means (with three figures) for the xenoestrogenic activities in Table 2 to support the significant differences found by Oneway-ANOVA and ad hoc multiple comparisons of means between the study groups. The p values is now included in the text and Table 2B has been taken out of the manuscript.

We hope that the manuscript, in its present form, will be suitable for publication in the Environmental Health.

Best regards
Eva Cecilie Bonefeld-Jørgensen (Corresponding author)
Associated Professor, cand. scient., PhD
Head of the Research Unit of Cellular & Molecular Toxicology
Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine
Institute of Public Health, University of Aarhus, Denmark