Reviewer’s report

Title: Systematic Review of Worldwide Variations of the Prevalence of Wheezing Symptoms in Children

Version: 1 Date: 29 February 2008

Reviewer: Dirceu Solé

Reviewer’s report:

This systematic review on Worldwide variations of the prevalence of wheezing symptoms in children is an extensive survey (during 16 years) of the published data about the prevalence of wheezing in children and adolescents. It is a very hard-working study, well-written and properly discussed.

The comparison of the published ISAAC trials and others studies that have applied the same asthma core written questionnaire but were not considered official centers of ISAAC, and those that did not use the ISAAC methodology were very interesting and in some way, intriguing. However, the data presented were similar to those previously observed worldwide.

The ongoing efforts of time trends evaluation of the prevalence of wheezing in children and adolescents in UK and Australia is a limitation for this study. It would be more worthwhile if this systematic review was complemented by a meta-analysis (Revman 2.1) where data were gathered and examined by country and possibly by continent to allow the authors to obtain results not yet observed.

Page 4, paragraph 2 must be clarified, it does not make sense.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions