Reviewer’s report

Title: Residential exposure to motor vehicle emissions and the risk of wheezing in a city-wide cross-sectional study of 7-8 year-old schoolchildren in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Version: 1 Date: 22 February 2010

Reviewer: Francesco Forastiere

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study exploring the association between traffic and children respiratory health in an area of the world not well studied. The study has been well conducted and the paper is well written. The only major concern I have is related with the interpretation of the results in terms of non-linearity of the effects. I disagree as misclassification of exposure together with insufficient power could explain the results. As a Major Compulsory Revision, the authors should moderate their enthusiasm regarding this aspect.

Minor Essential Revisions

In addition, I recommend to evaluate the following comments.

Abstract: indicate that PM and NO2 are emissions and not concentrations.

Introduction. It should be recognized that the literature is much more vast than the few references indicated. It should be recognized that the results of reference 14 have been questioned (see Galassi et al, Environmental Health, 2009).

Results. Crude data with numbers and percentages should be presented in table 2 and 3.

Use tables instead of figures to present the results. It is strange that the main results, also reported in the abstract, are not reported in a tabular form.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'