Reviewer’s report

Title: Public, Environmental, and Occupation Health Research Activity in Arab Countries: Bibliometric, Citation, and Collaboration Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 16 July 2014

Reviewer: Grisel Zacca-González

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions.

Background section:
• This section should end with a brief statement of what is being reported in the article or the objectives.
• Reconsider this statement in the first paragraph or support with properly references: The quantity and quality of research activity in a particular medical field reflects the degree of contribution of various countries to the scientific literature and is regarded as an indicator of health status in that particular country.

The quantity and quality of research activities as well as health status depend on so many factors that we cannot confirm the association.

Method section:
• The time period should be limited with a beginning and end date. The author say that the time frame for the result was up to year 2012, the 2012 and 2014 years were excluded because they are still open for new journal issues. Then the period was 1914-2011.
• Could be mention the dates of data extraction instead of the dates of analysis.
• There is an error in the citation of reference 45. Instead of Fagas should read Falagas.
• This statement should be reconsidered as soon as Scopus has Public Health, Environmental and Occupational subject category and there is a bibliometric portal for data extraction (http://scimagojr.com/).

… a major obstacle for using Scopus as an alternative to WoS for this study is that fact that Scopus does not have categories to facilitate the extraction of data in an accurate way like WoS.

Discussion section
• The statement about Khartoum University is not supported by the data included in the results.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests