Author's response to reviews

Title: Design of CIAO, a research program to support the development of an integrated approach to prevent overweight and obesity in the Netherlands.

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Version: 2 Date: 19 December 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Hereby we would like to submit our revised manuscript entitled “Design of CIAO, a research program to support the development of an integrated approach to prevent overweight and obesity in the Netherlands” for publication in BMC Obesity. Upon your request we have:

- inserted ethical and consent information in the method section of sub-study 3 in the manuscript (page 15 line: 10-13 & page 15: line 19-25),
- sent the requested information regarding the approvals of the ethics committee to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com,
- and we added information regarding ‘funding and peer-review of the design of CIAO’, ‘study status’ and ‘related articles’ in this cover letter.

Also we have added an extra peer-reviewer to our list.

This manuscript is a design article that describes an ongoing study of a concerted action of five Academic Collaborative Centres: local collaborations between academic institutions, regional public health services, local authorities and other relevant sectors in the Netherlands. This comprehensive research consisting of five concerted sub-studies aim to gain insight and knowledge in key-elements of the integrated community-wide approach towards overweight and obesity prevention. Overweight is an important public health issue because of its increasing prevalence and associated adverse medical and social consequences. We believe that both the topic of our research, our comprehensive solution-oriented research approach and the focus on
more up-stream determinants of overweight and obesity qualifies this design article for BMC Obesity.

The design of CIAO has not been published elsewhere. However, since the beginning of this research program four papers (of sub-study four) have been published, nl:


Since 5 PhDs are working on the sub-studies multiple articles will follow.

The CIAO research program is externally funded and peer-reviewed by the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMW) and the Dutch Heart Foundation (ZonMw ref. nr. 50-50102 -96-015). Neither one of the funders played a role in the study design, or will in analysis or interpretation of the data. The authors have no conflicts of interest.

All authors acknowledge that they have read and provided approval for the content presented in this manuscript and for its submission to the BMC Obesity.

We suggest the following peer reviewers for this manuscript:

- Terry T.-K. Huang (Professor and Chair, University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health, 984365 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, 68198-4365 USA; Phone: 402-552-6837; E-mail: tthuang@unmc.edu)
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We are looking forward to your response.

Kind regards,

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