Reviewer's report

Title: The influence of APACHE II score on the average noise level in an intensive care unit: an observational study

Version: 5 Date: 6 January 2015

Reviewer: Bart Van Rompaey

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for giving the opportunity to review this paper. Substantial efforts have been made to elaborate on a difficult technical topic for a broader audience. Although not revealing many noise originating factors, I sincerely believe this paper addresses an important and relevant topic. I would like to suggest some minor improvements:

1. P5, 152 Please add the number of approval of the Ethical Committee
2. P5, 157 maybe a median and range are more appropriate instead of mean and median; consequently the kurtosis will be clear to the reader
3. P5, 160 since I don't know the device, really continuous or at a certain frequency e.g. each second, each…? Also continuous by you means also in empty rooms, two different meanings; can you be straightforward about them
4. P8, 295 correlated may be replaced by related; correlation is a statistical technique

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