Author's response to reviews

Title: Association between life-course socioeconomic position and inflammatory biomarkers in older age: a nationally representative cohort study in Taiwan

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for considering our paper to be potentially acceptable for publication. We greatly appreciate the editor’s comments. We addressed the comments and technical comments raised and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We hope that this version meets your approval for publication in BMC Geriatrics.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Kuo-Liong Chien

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Response to the Editor’s Comments:

1. Editor Comments: The authors adequately addressed all my comments except Comment 2. I agree with them that due to limited sample size it is likely not feasible to perform the analyses based on more categories of SEP at three different stages other than dummy classification. This should be noted in the manuscript, not just being noted in the response letter.
Thus, I recommend asking the authors to copy some of texts in their response letter (Comment 2) to Discussion regarding the limitation of their current dichotomous classification of SEP.

Response:

We have copy some of the texts in the response letter to Discussion regarding the limitation of the current dichotomous classification of SEP.

(Discuss section, line 2-9, page 23)

2. Technical Comments:

(1) Declarations header: Please add this section header before the Competing interests statement.

(2) Authors' contributions: Please use initials instead of full names in this section.

(3) Ethics approval and consent to participate: Please include in the Declarations section a statement outlining the ethics approval for your study and and the type of consent to participate obtained from the subjects involved in the study. Please list the name of the ethics committee that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.

(4) Consent for publication: Please include this statement in the Declarations section. As your manuscript does not contain individual data, please write 'Not applicable'.

(5) Availability of data and materials: Please provide information about where the data supporting your findings can be found. We encourage authors to deposit their datasets in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate), or to be presented within the manuscript and/or additional supporting files. Please note that identifying/confidential patient data should not be shared. Authors who do not wish to share their data must confirm this under this sub-heading and also provide their reasons. For further guidance on how to format this section, please refer to BioMed Central's editorial policies page (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials).

(6) Funding: All sources of funding for the research reported should be declared. The role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared.

(7) Supplementary material: Please remove the certificate of copyediting from the supplementary material, as this file will not be included in the published article.

(8) Clean version: At this stage, we would like to ask you to submit a clean version of your manuscript. Please ensure the 'track changes' function has been switched off, all changes have
been accepted and there is not highlighted or strikethrough text as these text edits can cause problems later during the production process.

Response:

Thanks for the technical comments. We have revised accordingly.

(Declarations section, page 25-26)