Author's response to reviews

Title: Determinants of gastric cancer screening attendance in Korea: a multi-level analysis

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Editor-in-Chief

*BMC Cancer* Editorial Office

RE: Determinants of gastric cancer screening attendance in Korea: a multi-level analysis

Dear Editor-in-Chief:

My colleagues and I would like to submit the above-referenced manuscript to *BMC Cancer* to be considered for publication.

Since its launching in 1999, the National Cancer Screening Program (NCSP) in Republic of Korea has provided free-of-charge cancer screening for common cancers, including gastric cancer, to low-income individuals. The present study was aimed to identify the factors associated with gastric cancer screening attendance and to help identify targeted interventions to improve participation in gastric cancer screening by using both individual- and area-level determinants. We found that the highest income quartile, a college or higher education level, living with spouse, having a private health insurance, limited general activity, previous history of gastric or duodenal ulcer, and not currently smoking were associated with a higher participation rate in gastric cancer screening among the individual-level variables. In addition, urbanization showed a significant negative association with gastric cancer screening attendance among the area-level factors (odds ratio (OR) = 0.73; 95% confidence interval (CI) = 0.57-0.93 for the most urbanized quartile vs. least urbanized quartile) after adjusting all of the individual and area-level factors.

We think our findings are anticipated to be of great interest to many of the readers of *BMC Cancer*, especially who works in the field of secondary cancer prevention and social epidemiology.

All the dataset used for this study were publicly accessible, therefore exempted from approval of the Institutional Review Board. The contents of this manuscript have not been copyrighted or
published previously nor are they under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors have participated in the design, execution and analysis of the paper and they have seen and approved the final version. None of the authors has any conflict of interest regarding this manuscript. We look forward to hearing your decision for the suitability of this manuscript for publication in your journal.

Sincerely,

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