Author's response to reviews

Title: Consumption of whole grains and cereal fiber and total and cause-specific mortality: prospective analysis of 367,442 individuals

Authors:

Tao Huang (taohuang83@gmail.com)
Min Xu (della.xumin@163.com)
Albert Lee (AlbertLee@yahoo.com)
Susan Cho (susanscho1@yahoo.com)
Lu Qi (nhlqi@channing.harvard.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 5 February 2015

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

Re: MS: 1831869841478015: “Consumption of whole grains and cereal fiber and total and cause-specific mortality: prospective analysis of 367,442 individuals”
Tao Huang, Min Xu, Albert Lee, Susan Cho and Lu Qi

Thank you for your letter in which you provided comments on the above manuscript, and provided an opportunity for us to further revise it. We have taken the reviewers’ comments and suggestions into consideration and revised the manuscript accordingly. On the following pages, please find our responses to the reviewers’ concerns, and details of the pages on which the changes have been made.

We had checked all style requirements for *BMC Medicine* one by one carefully. The manuscript has not been submitted nor is under consideration for publication by another journal. All authors have read the manuscript and are in agreement that the work is ready for submission to *BMC Medicine* and accept the responsibility for manuscript contents. None of the authors has any conflict of interest in the matter.

We believe that the quality of the manuscript has been considerably enhanced as a consequence of the review process. We hope that the revised paper now meets your approval for publication in *BMC Medicine*. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Lu Qi, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Associate Professor of Nutrition
Harvard School of Public Health
Tel: 617-432-4116
Fax: 617-432-2435
E-mail: nhlqi@channing.harvard.edu

**Reviewer 1's report**

**Title:** Consumption of whole grains and cereal fiber and total and cause-specific mortality: prospective analysis of 367,442 individuals
**Version:**2 Date: 20 January 2015
**Reviewer:** Dagfinn Aune
**Reviewer's report:** I understand the authors don't have access to more detailed data on specific whole grains and subgroups of mortality. However, I think it would have been interesting if at least the authors could add an analysis of all other causes of death than the specific causes of death listed in Table 2. This should be possible by restricting the analysis to all other deaths than CVD, cancer, diabetes, respiratory disease, or infections.
**Response:** We agree with reviewer. We have added the results for whole grain and cereal fiber intake and mortality from other causes in Table 2 and Table 3.
Please clarify if red meat (among the confounders) also includes processed meat. **Response:** Yes, covariate red meat includes both processed meat and fresh meat. We have clarified this issue accordingly and marked the changes in red.

**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

**Reviewer 2's report**  
**Reviewer's report Title:** Consumption of whole grains and cereal fiber and total and cause-specific mortality: prospective analysis of 367,442 individuals  
**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 25 January 2015  
**Reviewer:** Michel de Lorgeril  
**Reviewer's report:** Thank you for the changes. Congratulations!  
**Quality of written English:** Acceptable  
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.  
**Declaration of competing interests:** We receive research grants (through the Grenoble University School of Medicine) and work on cereal polyphenols

Please can you also adhere to the following editorial requests and provide your responses in the cover letter:

(1) **Ethics** - Experimental research that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration ([http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html](http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html)). A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.  
**Response:** NA

(2) As this uses a questionnaire then consent is implied. It would be helpful if you can provide a statement to this effect.  
**Response:** Done

(3) Provide an abbreviation section based on the instructions at the following link: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-abbreviations](http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-abbreviations)  
**Response:** Done

(4) Provide a competing interest and an author contribution sections based on instructions at the following link: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-competing](http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#formatting-competing)  
**Response:** Done

**Response:** Done
Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

Response: Done