Author's response to reviews

Title: Perfluoroalkyl acids and time to pregnancy revisited: An update from the Danish National Birth Cohort

Authors:

Cathrine C Bach (ccbach@clin.au.dk)
Zeyan Liew (zeyanliew@gmail.com)
Bodil H Bech (bhb@ph.au.dk)
Ellen A Nohr (eannohr@health.sdu.dk)
Chunyuan Fei (chunyuanfei@gmail.com)
Eva C Bonefeld-Jorgensen (ebj@ph.au.dk)
Tine B Henriksen (tbh@dadlnet.dk)
Jørn Olsen (jo@ph.au.dk)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find our manuscript entitled: "Perfluoroalkyl acids and time to pregnancy revisited: An update from the Danish National Birth Cohort".

This manuscript follows our article from 2009 demonstrating an association between perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and time to pregnancy using data from the Danish National Birth Cohort (Fei et al. 2009). Afterwards a few other studies have addressed this topic with conflicting results. In the present study we found no association between PFOS and time to pregnancy in the new data. For PFOA there was a tendency towards longer time to pregnancy in parous women only. We therefore conclude that convincing evidence for an association between PFOA or PFOS and time to pregnancy is lacking at present.

We confirm that this manuscript is our original work, has not been previously published, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors have read the manuscript, agree with its submission, and accept responsibility for its content. The authors have disclosed that they have no actual or potential competing interests.

Suggested reviewers:
Kristina Whitworth, Kristina.W Whitworth@uth.tmc.edu, Epidemiology, Human Genetics & Environmental Sciences, The University of Texas School of Public Health, San Antonio Regional Campus, San Antonio, TX. Great knowledge on exposure to environmental toxicants and reproductive outcomes.
Niels Jørgen Secher, njsecher@dadhnet.dk, Department of Obstetrics, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark. Expert in reproductive research.

Hanne Hegaard, hanne.kristine.hegaard@regionh.dk, Department of Obstetrics, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark. Expert in reproductive research.

We believe that our work provides an important contribution to the unresolved issue of a potential association between exposure to these chemicals and female fecundity. Thank you for your consideration of our work. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cathrine Carlsen Bach on behalf of the authors