Author’s response to reviews

Title: Longitudinal Follow-up of Health Effects among Workers Handling Engineered Nanomaterials: A Panel Study

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Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript. Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope to meet with approval. Revised portion is marked in red on the paper. The main corrections in the paper and responds to the reviewer’s comments are as flowing:

Responses to Reviewer’s Comments:

Reviewer #1:
This is a revised version of a previously reviewed manuscript. Overall, the authors responded satisfactorily to the comments made. There is only one minor comments to a change made.

Minor revision:

Page 26: the discussion of the healthy worker effect could be further improved. There are basically two fears in the healthy worker effect: 1) drop out of highly exposed workers who get sick during the observation period -&gt; this is well described in the article and 2) sensitive workers leaving the job shortly after they started (or not even applying for the job) and thus not contributing to the statistics -&gt; This would be difficult to identify unless the authors had access to job-entry exam data (probably difficult to obtain). My suggestion would be to change the wording to the following:

„Finally, there is the risk to underestimate the effect of NPs exposure if workers with high exposures would not participate in the follow-up exams. This risk is low because we collected workers' specimens during a series of annual health examinations, which provides the absence pattern of workers. However, we cannot fully exclude a healthy worker effect in which workers quit the job because of health issues before they started to participate in the study."

Response:

Thank you for the great effort for reviewing of our submitted MS again. We have revised this paragraph accordingly. Please see page 26 for more detail.