Author's response to reviews

Title: Demographic, health-related, and work-related factors associated with body mass index and body fat percentage among workers at six Connecticut manufacturing companies across different age groups: A cohort study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
April 2, 2015

Attn: Clare Partridge, Executive Editor

BMC Obesity

BioMed Central

236 Gray’s Inn Road

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Dear Dr. Partridge:

My co-authors and I thank you for considering our research article for publication at BMC Obesity. I received your email requesting changes to our manuscript prior to the peer review process. Below we provide a point-by-point description of the changes made to address each of your comments.

**Editor comment 1:** Given the results are highly context specific, the title and abstract need to include detail of the study location.

**Response 1:** We changed the title to read: “Demographic, health-related, and work-related factors associated with body mass index and body fat percentage among workers AT SIX CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURING COMPANIES across different age groups: A cohort study.”

We also changed the abstract (page 2, line 56): “BMI and BFP of 758 workers from SIX CONNECTICUT MANUFACTURING COMPANIES were objectively measured…”

**Editor comment 2:** Although the title indicates this is a cohort study, there is no detail in the abstract of study dates (how long is change measured?) and the longitudinal nature of the study is not mentioned in the abstract aims (background), methods or conclusions. Please include this detail.

**Response 2:** We made several changes to the abstract to address this point:

- Line 53, 59, 62: “baseline and changes in…”
- Line 57: “…measured in 2008 and again approximately 33 months later…”
- Line 78: “More work must be done to identify factors or strategies that can predict changes in obesity over time.”

We also have specified more clearly which results and conclusions correspond to baseline and changes in BMI/BFP throughout the abstract.

**Editor comment 3:** Although approval from an institutional review board is mentioned, please also include detail of informed consent.

**Response 2:** We added the following statement in page 4 line 129 to indicate that all participants gave informed consent:

“During the workday, following informed consent, surveys were distributed and collected by members of the research team.”

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify some important details in our manuscript. We hope this revised version is now ready for the peer review process. Please feel free to contact me if there are other issues that you would like us to address or provide further clarification on.

Sincerely,

Alicia G. Dugan, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine