

## **Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** Between-airport heterogeneity in air toxics emissions associated with individual cancer risk thresholds and population risks

### **Authors:**

Ying Zhou ([yzhou@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:yzhou@hsph.harvard.edu))  
Jonathan I Levy ([jilevy@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:jilevy@hsph.harvard.edu))

**Version:** 4 **Date:** 12 April 2009

**Author's response to reviews:** see over

April 12, 2009

Dear Environmental Health Editor:

We appreciate the helpful comments from the Editorial Team regarding manuscript 8876679892475451 by Zhou and Levy, entitled "Between-airport heterogeneity in air toxics emissions associated with individual cancer risk thresholds and population risks". Our responses to each point are given below.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [ying.zhou@emory.edu](mailto:ying.zhou@emory.edu) or 404-712-9583.

Best regards,  
Ying Zhou, Sc.D.

**Response to the Editorial Team's Comments on Manuscript 8876679892475451 by Zhou and Levy, entitled "Between-airport heterogeneity in air toxics emissions associated with individual cancer risk thresholds and population risks"**

**Comment:** Please remove the page numbering and italics throughout the paper

**Response:** The page numbering and italics are removed.

**Comment:** On page 2, no hyphen is needed between high and resolution

**Response:** The hyphen is removed between high and resolution.

**Comment:** The article "the" should be inserted before maximum at the top of page 3. The second sentence might read better if therefore is placed at the beginning. A comma is needed after settings in the third sentence. In the second paragraph, in the fourth sentence, please try to reword the sentence so it does not begin with a percent or spell out the number. The word aircraft should be plural. Please remove the as before mobile sources.

**Response:** We made all the suggested changes, though we did not add the comma after 'settings' in the third sentence of the first paragraph.

**Comment:** On page 4, no hyphen is needed between time and consuming. In the second paragraph "for a given air toxic" might sounds better as toxic air pollutant in keeping with proper English grammar rules. The sentence following is long and might be better if written as two. In the third paragraph, do you mean cost-benefit? Please remove the parenthesis from around i.e. the sum of individual risks.

**Response:** We made all the suggested changes.

**Comment:** On page five, no hyphen is needed between publicly and available.

**Response:** Hyphen is removed as suggested.

**Comment:** On page 8, all the airports have detailed information. For consistency, please do the same for Chicago, O'Hare Airport (ORD).

**Response:** The suggested change was made for Chicago, O'Hare Airport (ORD).

**Comment:** On page 9, under Receptor selection and census data, the last phrase is a fragment. There is no verb.

**Response:** We changed the sub-title to 'Receptor selection'.

**Comment:** On page 10, please change assume to assumed, under to in at the top of the page and remove which is in the third sentence. "The" should be placed before EPA under Cancer potency factors and select changed to selected and rely to relied.

**Response:** We made all the suggested changes.

**Comment:** On page 11, the second sentence might read better as "We recognize tha BaP's risks maybe influenced significantly by non-inhalation pathways, but the focus herein is on..."

**Response:** We made the suggested change.

**Comment:** On page 17, there is an extra period after models in the first paragraph.

**Response:** We removed the extra period.

**Comment:** On page 21, please insert "art" between the and science in the second sentence in the first paragraph.

**Response:** We made the suggested change.

**Comment:** Please add a list of abbreviation and insert it at the top of page 22 followed by Competing Interests, Authors' Contributions, etc.

**Response:** We added a list of abbreviation.

**Comment:** In the references, please remove the issues and format them as number, period, space and entry.

**Response:** References were reformatted according to journal style instructions for Environmental Health

**Comment:** Please be sure that table 1, like tables 2 and 3 is in closed cell format.

**Response:** Table 1 was reformatted.