

Reviewer's report

Title: Genotoxic Parameters and Tumor-Associated Protein Levels in Flemish Adults: Association with Area of Residence and Exposure to Pollutants. A cross sectional Study

Version: 1 **Date:** 2 March 2008

Reviewer: Lisbeth E. Knudsen

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript covers results of effects parameters from the adults studies in the Flemish biomonitoring program. Reference is made to the exposure relationships with study areas found in the study and published elsewhere. Tables of correlations of biomarkers of effects of prostate specific antigen, carcinoembryonic antigen, p53, micronuclei, DNA strand breaks and 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine in urine with study areas are presented as well as the found significant correlations with exposure variables. The paper is descriptive and no hypotheses of relationships between exposures and effects are presented and tested. The paper needs major revision to clarify hypotheses of relationships and testing these. Eg relationships of adverse effects related to living close to industrial locations and waste incinerators. The paper should also discuss the implications of the findings.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.