Editor's comment

Title: Stress and prevalence of hearing problems in the Swedish working population

Authors:

Dan Hasson (dan.hasson@ki.se)
Töres Theorell (tores.theorell@stressforskning.su.se)
Martin Benka Wallén (martin.benka-wallen@ki.se)
Constanze Leineweber (constanze.leineweber@stressforskning.su.se)
Barbara Canlon (barbara.canlon@ki.se)

Version: 1 Date: 2 August 2010

Editor's comment:

Dear Dr. Hasson,

We have now received three reviews of your manuscript. While Drs. Holmgren and Hébert recommend note that the paper has the potential to make a significant contribution to the literature on the associations between hearing problems and stress and suggest minor revisions, Dr. Agrawal suggests major compulsory revisions. Specifically, he notes the issue of reverse causality in the link between hearing loss/tinnitus and stress, which is not addressed. Dr. Agrawal also mentions several issues concerning the strength of the conclusions that can be drawn from the analyses as they are, and suggests conducting multivariate analyses to provide stronger support for the conclusions. Given that the new analyses could change some of the results, I am inclined to agree with Dr. Agrawal that major compulsory revisions are required before a decision can be reached.

In revising your paper please also attend to the extensive list of minor essential revisions suggested by Drs. Holmgren and Hébert and give some consideration to the discretionary revisions suggested by Dr. Hébert. We would ask that you submit the revisions within 3 weeks if possible.

Sincerely,

Fuschia Sirois
Associate Editor
BMC Public Health