June 3, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find attached a revised electronic copy of the manuscript “Activity preferences and demographic factors associated with screen time sedentary behaviour among grade 1 to 4 students: An examination of Play-On study data.” The authors of the manuscript are Rebecca Bassett-Gunter (York University) and Scott Leatherdale (University of Waterloo). We have addressed the reviewers’ comments (see below) and we look forward to our manuscript publication in *The Health and Fitness Journal of Canada.*

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the corresponding author. Our responses to the reviewers’ comments follow this letter.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Reviewers’ comments in black ink; our responses in RED.

Introduction, bottom of page 2, to top of page 3: It is stated “Among
older youth, SSB has been associated with characteristics such as sex
(Leatherdale and Ahmed, 2011; He et al., 2009), age (Sisson et al., 2009),
PA level (He et al., 2009), and body mass index (BMI) (Epstein et al., 2000;
Utter et al., 2003).” Please indicate the direction of these differences
– i.e. state whether SSB is greater in males or females, greater in older
or younger kids, higher or lower PA levels, and greater in those with high
BMI.

We have added this information.

The authors should include a hypothesis statement at the end of the
introduction that is based on the past literature in this area.

We have added a hypothesis statement.

Regarding the sex differences: In the abstract, it is stated males were
more likely than females to have high SSB. It is stated in the results
section that males were also more likely than females to be very active.
This should be included in the abstract, as it might explain some of the sex
differences in SSB (i.e. males may compensate for their high PA level by
engaging in greater SSD).

We have added a statement in the abstract.

Table 1: You have determined percentages by dividing the number of students
in a specific category by the total low sedentary or total high sedentary
students (for example, males in the low sedentary category = 810/1,644 =
49.3%). I think it would be more informative to present the percentages by
calculating across specific student characteristics (for example, if you use
the numbers in brackets, 71% of males are low sedentary and 29% are high
sedentary).

This is a great suggestion. Indeed the recalculated percentages are more reflective of the accurate student characteristics. We have revised Table 1 as per your suggestion. Thank you.

The majority of students were classified as “low sedentary” rather than
“high sedentary” when using a cut-off of 2 hours per day screen time.
This seems to contrast with the literature you cite in the introduction
where average screen time for Canadian children was indicated at over 7
hours per day. Is the difference because of the grade levels in the current
study, which are lower than other studies? Please comment on this specific
result in the discussion section.

Although the average sedentary behaviour among Canadian children is consistently reported at over 7 hours, the most recent Active Healthy Kids Canada report card suggests that 30% of Canadian children are exceeding the guidelines, which is consistent with the current study. We added comment to the introduction/literature review to highlight the recent findings regarding the percentage of students exceeding the guidelines.