

From: Liam Smeeth [<mailto:Liam.Smeeth@lshtm.ac.uk>]

Sent: 16 May 2014 14:58

To: Rory Collins

Subject: BMJ and statins

Dear Rory,

You may have seen that I was one of the original reviewers of the Abramson paper.

My reviewer comments are now online (with my permission). However, the version of the paper I commented on is not available to readers. I did not see or comment on the resubmission.

Fiona Godlee's editorial states:

"The initial submission reported that Zhang and colleagues found that "18%...."

and goes on to say:

"This was a misreading of Zhang and colleagues' data that was not picked up by the peer reviewers or editors",

I have retrieved the version I refereed (attached, along with my original report). This did not mention or cite the Zhang study at all, hence I could never have picked up the misreading. I hopefully made clear in my report that I thought the results relating to myopathy were misleading: indeed I quantified what I thought were the best estimates.

I have raised this with Fiona and the BMJ plan to clarify the issue and, I hope, make the original Abramson submission available.

Best wishes

Liam