**Style Guide for AOEM Cohort Profiles**

**General Instruction:**

Use this file for the manuscript (MS word processor).

Font: Times New Roman, 11 point, in double space between lines.

Use normal font for Latin words, such as “in vivo, in vitro, et al., ad libitum, etc.”

Italicize the words: “*p*” (statistical probability), scientific names of bio-organisms (*Escherichia coli, E. coli*), name of genes (*COX2*), and name of journals (*Annals of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*).”

Present observed “*p*” values as ‘*p* = 0.xxx’ for all values when they are 0.001 or over. When the value is less than 0.001, present it as *p* < 0.001.

Make one space before all units, except for “%, ℃, .”

Make one space before and after symbols, except for “: (ratio, 1:10), - (range, 5-10), / (slash, 1/3, cycles/min).”

Do not use “~”for signal of range but use “-”.

Explain abbreviations when the words appear first, and use them thereafter consistently.

**Title:** - make it short but informative with core keywords. Do not use special words or symbols -

**Abstract**

A short free form summary (150 – 200 words) should describe why the cohort was set up, cohort participants, data collection phases, main categories of data, and data access.

**BACKGROUND**

What was the rationale for setting up the cohort including the original research questions it was set up to address? Where is it located and how is it funded?   
  
**STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

Describe the study design; the methods used to recruit participants; numbers invited and numbers who entered the study (give response proportion); and differences between responders and non-responders at baseline (ideally as a table of socio-demographic characteristics comparing responders to non-responders or responders to the general population from which the responders came). 

**ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**MEASUREMENTS**

Give broad categories for each follow-up phase, e.g.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Phase** | **Measurements** |
| Baseline 1935-40 | Fasting blood samples taken, DNA extracted, fasting glucose, lipids, insulin assayed, serum aliquots stored at –80OC Self-reported socio-economic position Anthropometric measures: weight, height, waist & hip circumference Blood pressure Self-reported major behavioural CVD risk factors |
| Follow-up 1950 | Questionnaire only:  Self-reported major diseases and treatment  Self-reported socio-economic position and behaviours |
| Ongoing | All participants are flagged with routine data sources providing deaths since baseline and cancer registry entries since 1980 |

Provide descriptions of unusual measurements (e.g. specialised scans; unique assays) and/or measurements that have been undertaken in sub-groups of the cohort.   
  
This section should describe any linkages to morbidity, mortality and other routine data sources.

**KEY FINDINGS (AND PUBLICATIONS)**

This should not be an exhaustive list, but an indicative summary of the most important findings generated by the cohort. If there is a web-page with a complete list of publications please note this and supply the web-address. We strongly encourages authors to illustrate one or two of their main findings with a table or figure, in addition to describing the findings in the text. Please note it is expected that descriptions of key findings, albeit brief, will inform the reader what has been found rather what has been examined.  
  
**STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS**

Please make sure both strengths and weaknesses are covered. It may be useful to readers setting up new cohorts to state briefly what you would do differently if you could start again and anything you regret leaving out. You may also comment on anything you feel is particularly valuable but might not be possible today because of data protection or other difficulties.

**DATA ACCESSIBILITY**

The purpose of cohort profiles is to foster collaboration and maximise use of existing data. If the data are open access a web address must be provided. If an application is required to access the data, indicate where the application form can be found and the process for submitting an application. If access to the data is more limited please describe opportunities for collaboration. In all cases the name and contact details of a researcher to whom enquiries and queries can be submitted must be provided. 