October 13, 2021

Dear Editorial Board,

We are submitting the following manuscript titled “Body mass in adolescence: Stronger ties to socioeconomic status than personality” for review in *Obesity*. This manuscript is original, and none of the material presented here has been published or is under consideration for publication elsewhere, including the Internet.

This submission addresses the degree to which the association between individual differences (in cognitive functioning and personality traits) and BMI in adolescents captures known associations between SES and BMI. In other words, do individual provide information to BMI percentile above and beyond that of SES. Moreover, we use holdout samples to compare the relative proportion of variance explained by SES, cognitive functioning, and two frameworks for personality (i.e., the use of broad vs narrow traits). We come to the following conclusions:

1. The associations of SES to BMI are substantially larger than the associations between individual differences and BMI, although individual differences do provide unique information; and
2. Narrow traits both provide more information and more theoretical clarity than broad traits.

We believe *Obesity* is the perfect home for this submission for several reasons. First, we believe the research question of this study aligns well with prior work published in this journal. Second, although we conduct our analyses on an US sample, we are an international team of researchers and draw on studies from around the world to inform the theoretical background of our work. Third, we are also committed to transparency. For that reason, we submit along with our manuscript all code associated with the study, additional analyses explored and not reported in the main manuscript, and links to a preregistration document, which also includes information regarding the deviations from the original analysis plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript. My co-authors and I look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

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