Review of: "A Computational Model Assessing Population Impact of a New Tobacco Product"

Eduardo Cesar[1]

1 Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Given that several readers have already commented about the core study presented in this paper and given that I'm not an expert in modeling, I would center my observations on the use of ABMS.

I think we can discuss diferent issues related to this simulation approach:

- ABMS is considered a simulation approach that focus on describing/modeling the behavior of individual entities of a system, and the relationships among them, in order to obtain the behavior of the whole, much complex, system. Among the advantages of this approach we have that it's simpler to model these individual entities than the whole system, and that ABMS can show emergent outcomes. In this sense, I think that your proposal is closer to a microsimulation approach than to an ABMS because there are no interactions of any kind among your agents.
- ABMS and, to a lesser extend, microsimulation are computationally demanding approaches. Have you considered using HPC systems to improve the scalability and performance of the simulator?

I would be glad to discuss about this issues if you're interested.