Discussion on the paper “Lower educational level is a predictor of incident type 2 diabetes in European countries: The EPIC-InterAct study”, by Sacerdote et al., IJE 20012, 41:1162-1173.

The aim of this discussion is to find the “perfect” study for assessing the effect of socio-economic status (SES) on diabetes in European countries. In small groups discuss the following aspects on the paper:

1) Risk factors: the authors use education as a proxy for socio-economic status. Why? What are the alternative variables they could have used? Discuss pros and cons

HINT: It could be useful to touch these points: how each of these variables is measured? Which are the potential confounders/effect modifiers?

2) Confounding: identify the confounders that the authors include in the analysis. Do you agree with their choice? They also talk about mediating variables? How are they different from confounders? Discuss. HINT: look at Figure 1