Reviewer's report

Title: Simulation methods to estimate design power: an overview for applied research

Version: 4 Date: 11 June 2011

Reviewer: Robert Gallop

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I want to thank the authors for addressing the concerns raised in my previous reviews. The discussion on lines 365 - 377 are satisfactory. While complex attrition patterns are seen post data collection, assuming those structures in a power situation could become quite challenging balancing between all the possible complex possibilities. The suggestion of a Bayesian approach provides the researcher a potential avenue if anticipation of such complexity arises.

The SAS versus R issue is unfortunate for the reader. Of course, there is some reader who may take this as a side project to adapt and provide to SAS audience through the SAS discussion and regional groups.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'