Reviewer's report

Title: Role of Life Events in the Presence of Colon Polyps among African Americans

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2013

Reviewer: Upender Manne

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript by Hassan et al. addresses the important issue of stressful life events correlation with colon premalignant lesion occurrence and colorectal cancer risk. The primary strength of this manuscript is the random nature of patient recruitment, because since patients undergo colonoscopy for various reasons (e.g. screening, surveillance, follow up), including all types of patients provide the natural setting rather than including a selective set of patients. The data is also addressing the suspected role of stress in oncogenic events. The presented data is sound and the statistical analyses are well described and performed. The study population of this study (African American) is major strength due to lack of sufficient data on this race/ethnic group. The conclusions are supported by their data.

Some of the minor concerns that needs to be addressed to improve the quality of manuscript, they are

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) The word "life events" is stated many times in the manuscript as "life event". Furthermore, the questionnaire also refers to "life events." Thus, this should be changed to ‘life events’ in the entire manuscript.

2) The title in the Results section should be changed to "Participants' characteristics." The same applies to Table 1 title: "participants'...."

3) The abbreviation H/O at the bottom of Table 1 is not a common practice, thus, "16 has H/O polyps unclear, needs to be expanded"

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'