Reviewer's report

Title: Lighting and Perceptual Cues: Effects on Gait Measures of Older Adults at High and Low Risk for Falls

Version: 2 Date: 7 August 2011

Reviewer: Michele Callisaya

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to my concerns and their article will be of interest to readers.

I have some minor suggestions:

Minor essential revisions

1. The authors have reported that they adjusted for multiple comparisons for only some of the gait variables. This should be consistently reported for all gait variables.

2. Page 14 Discussion para 1. I found this paragraph a bit confusing. The statement is made that '...the addition of laser lines to dim light from night lights.... increased velocity and step length and reduced stride length variability and step length variability.' When looking at Figures 2-5 (All Participants) the difference between night lights and pathway+night lights was only significant for SD of stride length. For HRF the difference was significant for only velocity and SD of step length. Please clarify. Also in the same paragraph: Post-hoc analyses - did you mean SD of step length?

Discretionary Revisions

1. Page 5 Methods - Descriptive information reported in Table 1 would be better placed in Results

2. As suggested previously statements in the Results such as "Similar to step length, older adults at LFR were less impacted by the use of perceptual cues as measured by DS of step length" on page 11, "These results were unexpected because...." on page 12 and "These data suggest that, unlike HFR older adults, perceptual cues about horizontal walking plane were less important..." on page 13 would be better placed in the Discussion.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests