Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in Greek centenarians. A cross-sectional nation-wide study, examining multiple socio-demographic and personality factors and health locus of control.

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Version: 3 Date: 1 December 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We are submitting our revised manuscript MS: 7719673256665628 “Gender differences in Greek centenarians. A cross-sectional nation-wide study, examining multiple socio-demographic and personality factors and health locus of control”. Changes are presented in the text with different color. Point-by-point responses are presented below.

Sincerely,

Tigani Xanthi

(Corresponding author)

Point-by-point Answers

“...provide a operational definition of the terms?illiterate/literate and to add the definition as footnote in table 1.”

Answer

In the method section we have explained the categorization of the educational status and we have added the following sentence in order to better clarify the terms illiterate and literate. “The illiterate category included centenarians who have received no formal education at all, or have not completed primary school. All other responses regarding years of education were included in the literate category”.

We have also added the following definition as footnotes in table 1.

Illiterate: Centenarians who have not received formal education at all or have not completed primary school.
Literate: Centenarians who have graduated at least from primary school.

“relabel illiterate/literate per text and response letter”

Answer

Words have been relabeled according to suggestion

“Report the percentage of missing data. If substantial, could values be imputed (e.g., one item was missing from a scale)?

Answer

Percentages of missing data are reported in results under the section of “Sociodemographic and disease-related characteristics of centenarians by gender”. As it is being reported, missing values do not exceed 2.7%, except for BMI. As such, TCI, HLC and IPP scores were not severely compromised. Moreover, all these scores were calculated by summing up all corresponding items, unless there were missing answers. We have added the following sentence, as third in the same section, in order to address this fact: “Scores of individual subscales were calculated only in the case of no missing items, otherwise they were declared as missing values”.

“Given the correlational nature of the study, causal language should be avoided (e.g., Conclusions: use the word “determinants”)”

Answer

We acknowledge the non-causal nature of our study and hence, we have tried to avoid using such language throughout the manuscript. It is also clearly stated under the limitations that “the the cross sectional design does not allow etiological interpretations”. We have hence, replaced the word determinants with the word factors.