Author's response to reviews

Title: The longitudinal urban cohort ageing study (LUCAS): Methodology and descriptive results from the first ten years

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Hamburg, March 22, 2012

Dear Madam, dear Sir
Dear Mr Aldcroft

Please find attached the revised manuscript entitled “The longitudinal urban cohort ageing study (LUCAS): Study protocol and participation in the first decade” by Ulrike Dapp, Jennifer Anders, Wolfgang von Renteln-Kruse, Stefan Golgert, Hans Peter Meier-Baumgartner and Christoph Minder.

The revised manuscript describes the study protocol of a longitudinal cohort study of 3326 elderly persons 60 years and over conducted in Hamburg, Germany. In this revised manuscript we now focus on baseline characteristics of the participants and their participation rate over a ten year time period.

There are several reasons why we think this paper is relevant for readers of BMC Geriatrics.

First, this study is one in a series of studies of health risk appraisal combined with health promoting interventions among older persons for which the methodology was published in BMC Medical Research Methodology in 2007:


Second, this study is a long-term extension of the above mentioned short-term randomised controlled trial into a longitudinal cohort study of ten years’ duration by now. This set up permits following the natural ageing process of members of the control group as well as to assess the lasting effects of the RCT interventions mentioned above. Third, this paper shows that it is feasible to conduct a study of the elderly with repeated collection of extensive self-reported data over a longer time.

We confirm that the authors have no conflicts of interest, that all authors contributed to this work according to authorship guidelines and approved of the attached submitted version, and that results of this study have not been published before.

Thank you for considering our manuscript. Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any need.

Yours sincerely

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