Reviewer's report

**Title:** Sex differences in circumstances and consequence of outdoor and indoor falls in older adults in MOBILIZE Boston cohort study

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 16 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Yoshiro Okubo

**Reviewer's report:**

1. **Major Compulsory Revisions**
   Page 5
   Minimum and maximum length of the follow-up, how the follow-up terminated before the study end should be stated. Were there any participants who dropped out? If so, the follow-up rate should also be mentioned.

2. **Minor Essential Revisions**
   Page 2
   Abstract:
   "RR" should be explained.
   "-" and "#" are mixed.
   The follow-up period in the abstract (4.3 years) should be replaced with the actual period (2.9 years).

   Page 8
   All rate ratios by negative binomial regression models are unadjusted. Authors could consider adjusting for some variables that may relate to fall incidence, such as racial difference, use of psychotropic medication, or cognitive function (P < 0.05).

   Table 2
   The heading "annual rateX100" can be replaced with a more scientific expression.
   Number of injurious falls should also be included in the table as all falls.
   Space around "-" should be deleted to match the expressions in the text.

   Discussion
   Page 10
   Authors stated "This analysis showed that the overall fall rate (combining both indoor and outdoor falls) of women was lower than that of men, in spite of the women's poorer means scores in several physical characteristics (Table 1).", but no significant difference was found in total falls (0.85, 0.70-1.04), rather women
showed higher injurious fall rate than men (1.37, 1.09-1.70). Total outdoor falls are indeed significantly lower in women (0.72, 0.56-0.92). The description should be fixed more accurately. The similar description in the conclusion should also be fixed.

Page 11
The references of "a few observations" should be clarified.

Page 13
Place of “.” and “,” should be checked. (Lines 8 and 11)

3. Discretionary Revisions
Table 1
Corrections are needed as to "±", space before and after the ±, SD (S.D.), Examination.
Details of the physical activity (PASE) could be clarified in table 1 or as another table. This information should be used as an interpretation of the sex deference.
The authors interpreted the sex difference mostly with exposer time in indoor and outdoor but total PASE score in this sample shows no difference in physical activity, except for house hold activity.

Page 10
It is preferred that authors discuss about the sex difference including variables in table 1 which showed significant sex difference.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.