Reviewer's report

**Title:** Improving Dementia Diagnosis and Management in Primary Care: A Cohort Study of the Impact of a Training and Support Program on Physician Competency, Practice Patterns, and Community Linkages

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Sunil Khanna

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions.

1. The research questions posted by the authors are well defined and timely. The study underscores the need to combine a targeted physician practice-based educational intervention with community service engagement improves dementia care competency in clinicians and promotes linkages between clinical and community dementia care providers.

2. The authors need to provide additional information regarding the recruitment protocol. How many physicians (total number) from each region were invited to participate in the study? How did the authors identify physicians who were “especially active” in geriatric care? How did the researchers ensure the validity and reliability of the data collected as part of the study? How did the researchers manage the intra-observer and inter-observer errors?

3. The researchers should consider identifying any real or perceived cultural or structural barriers that could influence the interaction between physicians and community resources.

4. The concluding section should be expanded to further capitalize on findings of this excellent study to suggest how to “scale up” such interventions. There is a large body of literature that the authors can use to contextualize their findings and to propose innovative solutions to the challenge they identified in this section.

**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.