Reviewer’s report

Title: Who are the healthy active seniors? A cluster analysis

Version: 3  Date: 13 September 2014

Reviewer: Dannii Yeung

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript has been improved by including other related concepts such as healthy aging, successful aging, and productive aging. Most of my comments in the first review have been properly addressed. Below are the two concerns I have after reviewing the current version of the manuscript:

1. The objectives of this study are not clearly presented in the current manuscript. The transition between the literature review on active aging and the description of the randomized controlled study is relatively weak. Some ideas that are included in your responses to my comments #2 and #7 should be added to the background section in order to guide the readers to grasp the theme of this study.

2. Based on your conceptualization of active aging (p.2), it is recommended to take reference of Rowe and Kahn (1997)’s definition of successful aging. In particular, they stress that successful aging is not solely focused on achieving better outcomes of physical and cognitive health, but also emphasizes the importance of active engagement with life (which includes maintaining interpersonal relations and productive activity). It seems there are some overlaps between your definition of active aging and their definition of successful aging. You may consider incorporating their concepts of successful aging to the conceptual framework of this study and expand your discussion on the theoretical implications of the current findings.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I met the first author in international and local conferences on aging but I declare I have no competing interest.