Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns and associates of cognitive function, psychosocial wellbeing and health in the Lothian Birth Cohort 1936

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2014

Reviewer: Abebaw, Mengistu Yohannes

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting cross-sectional study that examined the Patterns and associates of cognitive function, psychosocial wellbeing and health in the Lothian Birth Cohort 1936. Findings indicate that higher life-long intelligence, personality traits associated with less mental distress, and basic health practices such as avoiding smoking are important associates of wellbeing in old age. It is a well-written study.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) It will be helpful for the reader to include grouping criteria and support from the literature in the introduction section.

2) The aims of the study should be more explicit in relation to this study. It is vague and speculative. “Like our previous study, this one was cross-sectional; we considered it important to extend our profile/group analysis to the broader definition of ageing status before beginning any investigation of the several important longitudinal/developmental questions that must follow”.

3) All the outcomes measures that have been used in the study should be supported with reliability and validity for this age group.

4) It will be helpful to state comorbidities for the sample and the impact they may have on selected outcomes (findings).

5) The social class strata should be commented on the discussion section and relevance for current practice in study of ageing. It will be helpful to provide an example for each social class.

6) All the analyses should also report 95% confidence interval limits, where appropriate e.g. Table 4 and Table 5.

7) The discussion should focus on more the main findings of the study on the first paragraph.

8) This is a cross-sectional study, therefore, how the findings are going to improve the body of knowledge and research is worthy of commenting.

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:
None