Author's response to reviews

Title: Potential for alcohol and drug interactions in older adults: Evidence from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

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Version: 2
Date: 3 January 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Potential for alcohol and drug interactions in older adults: Evidence from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing

We would be grateful if you would consider publishing this study in BMC Geriatrics. On behalf of the authors, I would like to confirm that this paper contains original material and that it has not been, and will not be published, in whole, or in part, in any other journal. All authors have agreed to the contents of the manuscript in its submitted form. There are no competing interests.

Why this manuscript is of special importance to BMC Geriatrics

Our large, population based study of older adults found that many older adults drink in excess of the recommended limits for their age, with many using alcohol in combination with alcohol interactive medications or conditions known to be exacerbated with alcohol intake.

As the proportion and age of the older population continues to increase, the absolute number using alcohol interactive medications will also increase. This increase in the prevalence of alcohol interactive medications, combined with increased use of alcohol suggests the proportion of older adults at risk of alcohol related adverse drug events will increase in future years. We discuss these results in detail, along with important clinical implications.

We hope you find our manuscript suitable for publication and we look forward to your comments.

Potential reviewers:
1) Professor Alison A Moore, Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry, UCLA (aamoore@mednet.ucla.edu)
2) Dr. Marja Aira, Department of Public Health and General Practice, University of Kuopio, Finland. (marja.aira@fimnet.fi)

Yours Sincerely,

Gráinne

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Gráinne Cousins, PhD