Reviewer's report

Title: A Population-based study of dementia in the oldest old: the Monzino
80-plus Study Design, methodological challenges, and population characteristics

Version: 2 Date: 25 April 2011

Reviewer: Ananya Roy

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential Revision:

1. Figure 1: Please label the study municipalities on the map and significance of
   shades of grey (if any, otherwise they can just be homogeneously grey).

2. Figure 2: Even though General practitioners might have been interviewed, they
   are not study population. Figure 2 should only show the flow of study population.

3. Language:

   Abstract:
   "The Monzino 80-plus Study is a prospective door-to-door population-based
   survey
   among all eighty years or older residents in several municipalities in the province
   of Varese".

   Please consider replacing several municipalities with the exact number of
   municipalities.

   Main text:
   Methods: "Economic condition of the population is satisfactory".
   This is subjective assessment by the authors and should either be deleted or
   backed up by statistical evidence.

   "Lists of residents were obtained from the registry offices of the municipalities."
   For the readers, could you please clarify if this was birth and death registry or
   electoral registry?

   Discretionary Revisions:

   1. It would be useful if the authors describe if they have archived blood samples
      for future studies e.g. for genetic risk factors.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.