Reviewer’s report

Title: Adherence to the USDA dietary recommendations for fruit and vegetable intake and risk of fatal stroke among ethnic groups: a prospective cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: Dean Sherzai

Reviewer’s report:

1) I don’t have any discretionary Revisions.

2) I suggest some minor Essential Revisions

Given the growing minority populations in United States, and the high prevalence of stroke in these groups, the topic of this paper is timely and very important. But in light of recent research, the data may have some important limitations such as its inability to address the different types of fruits and vegetables, and methods of food preparation. Our current understanding of differences in types of fruits and vegetables accessible to different ethnic groups, as well as differences in food preparation amongst these populations, may warrant expansion on these topics in the limitation section.

Other than a small paragraph about Vitamin C and its indirect relationship with stroke through Uric Acid levels (lines 164-169), there was not much further elaboration on possible biological mechanisms relating fruits and vegetables and stroke. This paragraph seems arbitrary and the authors may choose to either expanded or eliminated it.

3) I don’t have any major Compulsory Revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.