Reviewer's report

Title: The Dementia and Disability Project in Thai elderly: Rational, Design, Methodology and early results

Version: 3 Date: 3 September 2012

Reviewer: Gad Marshall

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed nearly all of the reviewer's comments and consequently the manuscript has improved in clarity and quality.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. In response to the previous Discretionary Revision comment #1, the authors say that they have changed the word “non-case” to “cognitively normal elderly”. However, they have made this change in only one location (in the Statistical analysis section); there are 4 other locations in the Abstract and body of the text where it has not been changed. It would be better to be consistent in making this change. Therefore, I suggest changing it everywhere.

2. In the Results section of the Abstract, the authors list the mean body weight (58.36) but do not provide the units. They should add “kg”.

3. In Functional and Clinical Assessments section of the Methods section, the authors introduce the NPI-Q and state that it assesses 13 symptoms. As far as I know it assesses 12 symptoms. The authors should double-check this and make sure they list the correct number of symptoms.

4. In the Results section, the authors report several correlation coefficients (r). They inadvertently report them as whole integers instead of fractions of integers (ex: r>2 to <8; this should be r<0.2 to <0.8). The authors should correct these.

5. In the first paragraph of the Discussion section, the authors list several variables that are associated with activities of daily living. However, they performed a linear regression adjusting for covariates, which showed that only gait and balance and triglycerides were significantly associated with activities of daily living after adjusting for the other variables. I recommend they state that first and say that other variables that were significant before adjustment and fell out of the final model include the various variables they listed (other than the 2 above).

6. In Figure 1, the authors designate 3 diagnostic groups: MCI, dementia, and controls. To be consistent with the rest of the manuscript, they should change the controls group to cognitively normal elderly.

Discretionary Revisions:
None.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.