Reviewer’s report

Title: Physical activity in subjects with Multiple Sclerosis with focus on gender differences - A survey

Version: 1 Date: 10 October 2013

Reviewer: Ilaria Casetta

Reviewer’s report:

Anens et al. presented a study on physical activity in MS patients with specific focus on gender differences. The topic is of interest and the study confirms that a gender perspective should be taken into account in planning interventions for promoting physical activity and more in general well-being in these patients. The title and the abstract adequately present and summarize the study and the results. The background and the aim of the study are clearly described, the method appropriate.

Some comments (major revisions):

Table 1. Did non responders differ by socio economic status, educational level, and/or working status, disease severity? The age range should be reported in this Table and in Table 2.

Table 2. 28.6% of men and 18% of women were retired due to age. Is this a significant difference?

Is this difference due to different statutory retirement age for men and women according to Swedish law? In addition or alternatively this can be due to different proportion of men belonging to the oldest age group despite a similar mean age.

Are the main results of the study confirmed across all age strata?

As a general comment the paper should be shortened (in particular the discussion section, and the section regarding the description of the scales: for example the procedure of translation into Swedish being based on a standard methodology can be synthesized).

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