Reviewer's report

Title: Explaining disparities in colorectal cancer screening among five Asian ethnic groups: A population-based study in California

Version: 2 Date: 30 November 2009

Reviewer: Tsu-Yin Wu

Reviewer's report:

Title: Explaining disparities in colorectal cancer screening among five Asian ethnic groups: A population-based study in California

The author(s) used a large population-based dataset to examine an important cancer screening modality in colorectal cancer screening. The manuscript was well-written with detained background and significance and also step by-step data analyses. One of the authors, Dr. Maxwell is a reputable researcher in the area of cancer control.

Several questions/issues (as major compulsory revisions) need to be addressed in order to increase the clarity for the overall paper.

1. Despite there are four models were tested and model 4 being the most comprehensive one including demographic and other study variables, what's the value for previous tree models being tested? Can authors provide rationale/justifications?

2. In Model 2 where the variables of education, employment status, and percent federal poverty level was entered as individual variable to account for the outcome variable, screening behavior. However, aren’t these variables are highly correlated? What about the multi-collinearity issue? Cant these variables be somewhat programmed as one SES variable?

3. In Table 3, reasons for not receiving colorectal cancer screening were reported. Based on our experiences in working with Asian Americans and also recognized by the authors on pg. 12 for the first paragraph in discussion that health insurance is critical factor in explaining AA’s colorectal cancer screening. It is surprising that this major barrier was not listed as one of reasons in Table 3. Can authors provide explanation on this?

4. Several claims/explanations about low screening among Korean Americans including levels of health insurance, not comfortable of communicating in English, etc., authors have cited other studies for support. However, the current dataset also has all these variables. Can authors use the current data and describe/present it in current paper to make it stronger argument?

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