Reviewer's report

Title: Intensity and timing of physical activity in relation to postmenopausal breast cancer risk: the prospective NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study

Version: 1 Date: 7 August 2009

Reviewer: Aina Emaus

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well-written manuscript discussing the interesting field of timing and intensity of physical activity in the breast cancer etiology. The title and abstract convey what has been found. The aims posted by the authors are well defined, and the methods are appropriate and well described. Good sample size in present analysis, though below 10 % (334,908 individuals) completed the baseline questionnaire. Discussion provided the concepts of physical activity, intensity and timing and breast cancer. The authors attended to limitations, such as self-reported physical activity.

1. Discretionary Revisions

1.1
The authors could comment on the low response of the baseline questionnaire, and discuss any misclassifications due to the low rate.

1.2
The author could state why they divided the historical age-groups the way they did.

1.3
In table 1a and 1b, add a space between age at menarche and (yrs)

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' below.