Author's response to reviews

Title: Reliability, Validity and Psychometric Properties of the Greek Translation of the Zung Depression Rating Scale

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Dear Sir,

I am sending you the revised study 'Reliability, Validity and Psychometric Properties of the Greek Translation of the Zung Depression Rating Scale' by K. Fountoulakis, et al, for judgement and possible publication in the BMC Psychiatry.

The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestions of the referee. More specifically:
1. A comment on low alpha coefficient was added in the conclusion. Unfortunately there are no rich data in the international literature on this matter:

'The very low internal consistency of the scale, reported by the current study suggests that the ZDRS is not a unidimensional scale. It is also evident that its development was not based on the contemporary definition of depression but rather on that of the sixties. Thus, although sensitivity and specificity were proved to be high, the interpretation of its results should be made with caution.'

2. The term 'normal control group' has been changed to 'normal comparison group'
3. The following paragraph has been added in the method section in order to clarify the procedure:

'Procedure:
The identification of potential cases and controls was done first and subjects were referred for detailed evaluation. The use of structured interviews and the final consensus decision of the two examiners determined which subjects would be included in the study. Testing with the ZDRS followed.'
We are looking forward to hear from you.

Thessaloniki October 19, 2001

Yours sincerely

Dr Kostas N. Fountoulakis