Reviewer's report

Title: Descriptive epidemiology of stigma against depression in a general population sample in Alberta

Version: 2 Date: 6 October 2009

Reviewer: Yan Leykin

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The issue of participants’ understanding of depression being the cause of John’s or Mary’s troubles continues to be problematic. The authors’ response to reviews indicates that 76% of participants correctly identified the problem to be depression. This means that a quarter of the sample (24% of participants) did not realize that John/Mary was depressed, which is an important finding in regards to the sample’s depression literacy. However, this suggests that a quarter of the sample responded to the stigma items with something other than depression in mind. The authors might consider either analyzing these participants separately, or at least including whether the participant recognized depression as a covariate.

2. More information about statistical tests should also be provided than just the p-value. For instance, the type of test that was performed (Fisher’s, chi-square), the value of the test (e.g., F-value), etc. The entire results section (with an exception of the last paragraph) or any of the first four tables do not mention any statistical test, only p-values.

3. Rather than conducting separate regression analyses for men and women, interactions of specific variables with gender would be more informative.

- Minor Essential Revisions

4. Minor spelling and grammatical errors should be corrected, e.g. “We found that 45.9% of the participants endorsed that depressed individuals to be unpredictable” p.3.

- Discretionary Revisions

5. Some information about the immigrant subgroup of the sample (e.g., ethnic/racial background, length of stay in Canada) would be helpful to appreciate the discussion of ethnic differences vis-à-vis depression in the discussion section.

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