Reviewer's report

Title: Baseline factors predictive of serious suicidality at follow-up: findings focusing on age and gender from a community-based study

Version: 1 Date: 9 March 2010

Reviewer: Gernot Sonneck

Reviewer's report:

This study provides one of the few longitudinal investigations of prevalence and predictors of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. Some parts of the ms are a little hard to read. Shorter sentences could help.

re Abstract:
Methods: The study setting should be mentioned, the time points of Wave 1 and 2 and the period in between (see also p. 4)
Results: depression/anxiety is not reported
p. 3: please add a reference of an Australien study of completed suicides
par. 2 last sentence: This paper extends these works through...
p. 4 Method: a flow chart diagramme of the participants would be helpful
p. 6, Inferential statistics, last sentence: ...suicidality. The interaction ... with all the other predictors.
p. 8 Age and gender: according to Tab. 4 cont. the males 40s group is predicted
Discussion, first sent.: ...there are many advantages...
p. 9: Another explanation for the overall decrease could be a selection bias due to the drop out rate
2nd paragraph, last two sentences: Are these assumptions supported by your data?
The last sentence is not clear
p. 12, last sentence: ...and contributes to the level...
Tab. 2: Suicidal ideation should be dicided into suicidal thoughts and plans
Tab. 3 is not mentioned in the text

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'