Reviewer's report

Title: The Maristan stigma scale: a standardized international measure of the stigma of schizophrenia and other psychoses

Version: 2

Date: 2 December 2013

Reviewer: Kelly Buck

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes, the research addresses why the cross-cultural study of stigma related to schizophrenia is important as well as the need for the development of a useful instrument that would be useful across cultures.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? The methods appear to be sound and they are well-described.

3. Are the data sound? The data appear to be sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? The discussion needs to be reorganized to clearly examine the results, clinical implications, limitations, then suggested directions for future research (in that order). As written it is confusing and fragmented.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Other limitations could include the differences with those patients who are younger, but also those who have had schizophrenia over 15 years. I am unsure why these groups were not included. Why was it important to exclude those with lesser years of institutionalization and those with fewer than 3 years of illness?

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? The authors need to more intently read the recent research on stigma in schizophrenia. Over half (27/40) references were older than 5 years. There is much research in the literature on stigma in the last five years which has been neglected and would make the paper much stronger. Please include work from such authors as Lysaker, Roe, Yanos, and Corrigan. Additionally, Loch has done much work in Brazil, as well as others in other countries which should be discussed and cited. It would seem appropriate to mention the Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness instrument (ISMI) as well.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes.

9. Is the writing acceptable? No. The manuscript is hard to read due to the numerous errors. It must be reviewed by English speaking authors before re-submission.

2. The above feedback for revision is considered to be MAJOR COMPULSORY.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.