Author's response to reviews

Title: The Amsterdam Studies of Acute Psychiatry I (ASAP-I); a prospective cohort study of determinants and outcome of coercive versus voluntary treatment interventions in a metropolitan area

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Author’s covering letter for initial submission

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Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would hereby like to submit our manuscript “The Amsterdam Studies of Acute Psychiatry I (ASAP-I); a prospective cohort study of determinants and outcome of coercive versus voluntary treatment interventions in a metropolitan area” for review concerning publication in BioMedCentral Public Health.

This article describes the study protocol of a prospective cohort study evaluating the differences between patients with and without forced admission by means of stepwise design including both a large cohort and a nested case-control study.

Regarding the BioMedCentral Public Health editorial policies, we can inform you that this study is designed and carried out according to the ethical principles stated. We would like to add that this manuscript is not under consideration nor published by another journal, all authors have read and agreed to the manuscript’s content, and declare that they have no competing interests. The bibliography and references are formatted using Reference Manager 10.

The study design has been subject to peer review by a national non-profit funding agency supporting research and implementation projects in the field of Mental Health (Stichting tot Steun VCVGZ) and obtained funding from this source. Further funding is supplied by JellinekMentrum Mental Health Care Amsterdam.

According to the instructions for BMC Public Health authors, study protocol articles will usually be published without peer review if the study has received ethics approval and a grant from a major funding body. Since the present study
has received both, no peer reviewers are suggested concerning this submission. Confirmation letters for ethical approval and grants, in Dutch however, are uploaded together with the manuscript.

We think the publication of study protocols in general is an important development, helping to improve the standard of public health research. It also enables to discuss the merits and limitations of the research design in more detail than other journals often allow. We would like to support this development by submitting our protocol.

Regarding the study's aims and its design, we felt that by publishing this manuscript a valuable contribution to public health research can be made.

We hope to have sufficiently informed you about the submitted manuscript, but please feel free to contact us in the case any question concerning the study.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the authors,

Dr. Robert Schoevers, MD
Prof. Dr. Jack Dekker