Reviewer’s report

Title: Are the Elderly More Vulnerable to Psychological Impact of Natural Disaster? A Population-Based Survey of Adult Survivors of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake

Version: 1 Date: 11 January 2010

Reviewer: Priscilla D. Allen

Reviewer’s report:

I find no major compulsory revisions. Statistical methods seemed logical and appropriate.

Minor essential revisions (definitions and overview) - I recommend a brief section discussing the area that experienced the devastation from the Sichuan Earthquake (very brief overview for persons unfamiliar with the region and the impact - although the discussion on the number of injuries and deaths were stark and clear - noting the power of this disaster). Writing seemed effective and clear.

I also highly recommend a brief section (even a paragraph) covering basic elements of PTSD - reader is assumed to possess knowledge in some areas regarding different types, levels, also describe the instrument a bit further to provide a more general usage tied to the traits of PTSD.

Minor/descretionary revisions - I recommend an area dealing with a theoretical base for why elders may experience a greater level of PTSD.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.