Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of the metabolic syndrome and its components in Northwest Russia: the Arkhangelsk study

Version: 4 Date: 27 October 2009

Reviewer: David Laaksonen

Reviewer's report:

My overall misgivings about the paper, especially with respect to its purely descriptive nature without information on determinants of the metabolic syndrome, remain the same. The English language needs major editing.

Given the requests for repeated revisal, it seems that the editors feel that the paper is of high enough priority for publication. The revised paper has improved, and some less major concerns that I have had have been addressed. Despite my misgivings about the paper, I would recommend that it be accepted, given the extended time that the paper has been under consideration for this journal.

What next?

Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?
- Accept without revision

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

Is it essential that this manuscript be seen by an expert statistician?
- No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests

I declare that I have no competing interests.