Reviewer's report

Title: Social participation reduces depressive symptoms among older adults: An 18-year longitudinal analysis in Taiwan

Version: 4 Date: 11 March 2011

Reviewer: Daniel W O'Connor

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I would like the authors to specify the actual CES-D items included in their two domains (negative affect and lack of positive affect).

The study design is complex with six waves of possible follow-up over an 18 year period. To qualify for inclusion in this secondary analysis, only one follow-up interview was required. It would be helpful to specify what proportion of follow-up data came from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. follow-up points.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests' below