Author's response to reviews

Title: Health and aging in elderly farmers: the AMI cohort

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Version: 2 Date: 4 June 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Covering letter with a point-by-point description of the changes

MS: 1294791567729640 - Study protocol - BMC Public Health

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1. As you may be aware, it is the policy of the journal not to peer review study protocols where ethical and external funding approval have been obtained, as these processes usually involve peer review and as there is little possibility to change a protocol after enrolment begins. Therefore, could you please clarify whether you have ethical approval and external funding for your study, and if so, could you send evidence of your approvals to the address below?
   • A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/ award from a charitable foundation).
   • If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board.
   • N.B. Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

Ethical approval (page 5 of our manuscript)
The Ethics Committee of the CHU (University Hospital) of Bordeaux approved this research according to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki.

External fundings given in the Acknowledgements section (page 15 of our manuscript)
- The AMI project was funded by AGRICA (CAMARCA, CRCCA, CCPMA PREVOYANCE, CPCEA, AGRI PREVOYANCE), la Mutualité Sociale Agricole (MSA) de Gironde, la Caisse Centrale de la Mutualité Sociale Agricole (CCMSA).
The AGRICA Group is a specialist for companies and employees of the agricultural world seeking supplemental pension, savings and healthcare insurance. AGRICA is one of the major French insurance providers offering protection for people employed in the agricultural sector. The other fundings come from the Mutualité Sociale Agricole (MSA), which is the unique Farmer Health Insurance System in France.
The amount of funding for the AMI project is 997 785€.
The AMImage1 project was funded by the Programme Hospitalier de Recherche Clinique - PHRC\(^1\) 2008 - Sponsor's code CHUBX 2008/13 - ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier NCT00951197. The amount of funding for the AMImage1 is 429 727€.

The AMImage2 project was funded by the Programme Hospitalier de Recherche Clinique - PHRC 2011 - Sponsor's code CHUBX 2011/15 - ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier not yet available (http://www.sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Resultats_PHRC-National_2011.pdf). The amount of funding for the AMImage2 is 481 000 €.

Study sponsors played no role in the design and conduct of the study; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data; and preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript (sentence added in the Competing interests section page 12).

2. Could you also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol?

The paper entitled « Le test des gobelets : normes et propriétés de détection de la démence en population générale chez des sujets issus de la cohorte AM I» (Mokri H., Matharan F., Amirault M., Pérès K., Dartigues J.F., Dubois B., Amieva H.) will be submitted to the French revue Revue Neurologique at the end of June 2012.

\(^1\) PHRC = Hospital Program of Clinical Research are governmental fundings.