Reviewer's report

Title: More mental health problems after divorce in couples with high pre-divorce alcohol consumption than in other divorced couples: Results from the HUNT-study

Version: 3 Date: 4 June 2013

Reviewer: Emma Bjorkenstam

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In the Methods section in the Abstract, it is unclear what is the definition of T1 and T2.
2. For an international reader, it is important to clarify that information can be linked due to a personal identity number. This should be mentioned in the Methods section.
3. I would expect at least a short description in the Methods section of the summative index (MH) and the Hopkins Symptoms Check list in order to fully understanding this measure. I believe it is not necessary to present the values of Cronbach’s alpha, as it is not given any further information on how to interpret these values.
4. I would expect a sentence saying something on exclusion of same-sex couples, or that only heterosexual couples were considered. Also something on how cohabiting couples were treated would be meaningful.
5. I suggest that the statistical analysis section more deeply describe the tables (it is rather hard to grasp for someone not familiar with statistics).
6. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. However, I would expect more discussion about the results in relation to earlier research (e.g. Discussion, second, fifth and sixth paragraph). I find the authors to draw conclusion based on solidly their own results and not discussing them in relation to earlier studies. If there are no earlier studies, this needs to be mentioned, not only in the introduction section.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The meaning of “B” in table 2 should be clarified.

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.