Reviewer’s report

Title: Planning for the future: cancer incidence projections in Switzerland up to 2019

Version: 1 Date: 10 December 2013

Reviewer: Susanna Cramb

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is well-written and informative. I have a few minor suggestions detailed below.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Several of the numbers in the abstract differ from those presented elsewhere in the text and in Table 2. On page 9, the number presented for cancers of the corpus uteri match the abstract rather than Table 2.

2. Some graph labels in Figure 2 had a couple of minor spelling/grammatical errors (i.e. Stomac, Others cancers).

3. Reference 6 was referenced 3 times at the one place on page 6.

Discretionary Revisions
4. For Figure 1, there could be benefit in ensuring the lines for males and females were distinguishable when printed in black and white.

5. Would suggest including a reference for the first sentence in paragraph 3 on page 4 (starting: Switzerland’s population is older…”

6. Please check that reference 14 is correct, as it did not seem to refer to the model used here (as mentioned on page 11).

7. Was 1985 the first year cancer data was collected? Might there be benefit in briefly explaining why you chose to start at 1985, for those unfamiliar with the Swedish cancer registry system?

8. Occasionally, the tone comes across as more confident than might be justified. For example, on page 10, in the middle of paragraph 2, the statement, “However, part of the differences is no doubt attributable to…” could potentially be considered over-confident. (Also, recommend changing ‘differences’ to ‘difference’.)

9. I was surprised to see C96 included as non-Hodgkin lymphoma. There could be benefit in explaining why this was included, as I am not aware of other Registries including this code in the definition.

10. At the end of page 8 (Results) you mention the cancer sites whose incidence
rates are expected to decrease in the future. Should oral cavity/pharynx for males also be included here?

11. Although 'non-melanotic skin cancer' is a commonly used term, a more accurate term would be 'keratinocytic skin cancer', as this only includes BCC and SCC. Cancers like Merkel cell are non-melanocytic skin cancers, but included in Registry data.

12. The sentence at the start of the final paragraph on page 8 would possibly read better as "Rates are expected to decrease during the next 10 years for stomach..." 

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.