Reviewer's report

Title: Do classical risk factors predict ischaemic heart disease in Cretans? A twelve year follow-up study in rural Crete.

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2007

Reviewer: Demosthenes Panagiotakos

Reviewer's report:

In this paper by Dr. Lionis’ team, the authors evaluated prevalence of CVD risk factors and CHD morbidity/mortality among 200 middle aged subjects living in Crete.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions

The concept of this work is very good, and the analysis fair. I have some minor comments:
1. In Table 5 the M-H stats refer to which age group?
2. Please emphasize in the text that Table 5 is a clear example that FRS overestimate the 10 risk of CHD in Med populations. Moreover, I wondered whether the authors could wait few weeks and repeat the analysis using the HellenicSCORE (the paper will be available in Pubmed at the end of the next month). This score uses original Greek data and supposed to have better predictive ability.
3. Figure 3 needs improvement in presentation (I advise the authors to see similar figures in the literature).
4. It would be of interest to try to explain the differences in CVD RF prevalence finding intermediate factors (i.e., dietary, lifestyle changes etc) and to see at which extent these factors explain the stability in mortality/morbidity rates through time.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'