Reviewer's report

Title: Sleep Quality in Middle-aged and Elderly Chinese: distribution, associated factors and associations with cardio-metabolic risk factors

Version: 2 Date: 26 January 2009

Reviewer: Ursula Voss

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The authors present a large set of data somehow related to subjective ratings of sleep quality in Chinese residents of Beijing and Shanghai. I have two major problems with the manuscript: 1) sleep quality appears to me superficially assessed. This lack of detail stands in sharp contrast to the multitude of variables reported. If the prevalence of sleep disorders (which would be the desirable information here) is the key variable to be explained, then its assessment should be a valid one. There are many standardized questionnaires available and to only base sleep quality on a single self rating, is not sufficient. 2) the manuscript lacks a clear statement. Of course, this is related to point 1). What do I learn from the manuscript besides the fact that subjectively rated poor sleep is related to sleep duration and a number of life style and disease-related factors? Clear hypotheses would have benefitted the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions
The reasons for the choice of statistical analyses should be elaborated on. Did the authors conduct corrections for multiple testing, for example, and if so, which?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

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