Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of parents’ alcohol use and family interaction with the initiation of alcohol use by sixth graders: A preliminary study in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 7 February 2009

Reviewer: John Getz

Reviewer’s report:

DATE: 2-5-2009

TO: BioMed Central

From: J. Greg Getz, Ph.D.

RE: Review of Revised Manuscript: Parent’s alcohol use and family interaction associated with the initiation of alcohol use by the sixth graders: A preliminary study in Taiwan.

COMMENTS

Having read the revised manuscript I conclude that the authors have adequately addressed my previous suggestions for Major Compulsory Revisions.

1. Conceptual variables are more clearly articulated and related to each other.

2. The theoretical framework contextualizing the hypotheses has been elaborated and better connected to the conclusions and discussion.

3. Hypotheses involving mediated relationships have been articulated and tested.

4. Discussion of measures has been elaborated. Cronbach’s alphas are reported for relevant measures.

5. Attrition analysis was conducted and appropriate constraint exercised regarding overgeneralization of results.

6. Zero order correlation matrix was added.

7. Statistical analysis was enhanced in testing of mediation hypotheses and in removal of a confounding variable (violent tendency) from the logistic regression. This resulted in findings consistent with research on American adolescents, i.e., family conflict predicts alcohol use initiation and acceleration to moderate or heavy use.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. The added elaboration of theoretical context (pages 3-5) contains many
grammatical errors. While the intentions of the authors are clear these errors should be corrected. Review entire manuscript for grammar and spelling errors.

2. Page 6, line 4
should be Data were collected.

3. Page 10, line 11.
44% is not a majority; therefore, sentence should read: Parents who were both never-users of alcohol constituted 44.4%.

4. Page 10, paragraph 3.
When a correlation is not statistically significant (e.g., .02 or -.05) the magnitude of the coefficient must be interpreted as zero without a sign. The magnitudes of these coefficients are too low for the sign to be regarded as meaningful.

5. In discussion section authors should elaborate cross cultural implications of their findings. For example, has the Taiwanese study population become so westernized that one would expect findings similar to those from the United States? Or, alternatively, might there be common social psychological processes that transcend cultural differences in causing or buffering against alcohol (or other drug involvement) among adolescents?

CONCLUSION
ACCEPT AFTER MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS.

The level of interest is still limited because prior research in this area has incorporated many more variables than those employed here into multivariate models predictive of alcohol use initiation among adolescents. However, publication is recommended here for reasons suggested by the authors. First, this research employs a study population of pre-adolescents and studies initiation of use. Second, the study population is from a society manifesting low alcohol consumption. Third, the study mostly replicates findings from the United States indicating that whatever cultural differences exist between a culture promoting individualism and one more historically promoting collectivism, those differences to not obviated common family dynamics that either facilitate or protect against adolescent involvement with alcohol.

**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.