Reviewer's report

Title: Personality in women and associations with mortality A 40-year follow-up in the Population Study of Women in Gothenburg

Version: 2 Date: 12 November 2013

Reviewer: Daniel Mroczek

Reviewer's report:

The authors stated that no study of personality and mortality have used a follow up of more than a decade. This is not true. There have been many that have done 20-30 year follow ups and the Friedman studies have followups of more than 70 decades.

The personality measures used (Murray) are not usual. Hardly anyone uses these scales. This is both a strength and weakness of the study.

The authors appear to have entered all the personality variables into a single model to predict mortality. This likely oversaturated the model and made very few personality variables come out significant. The Murray variables are likely highly correlated, so it would be better to pick 3-4 theoretically relevant traits and use them as predictors, rather than overload the model with a large number of correlated variables.

Finally, the authors conclude personality was not related to mortality but they did find significant associations. Thus, the statement that they did not find any associations is very puzzling.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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