Dear Dr. Hosking,

Thank you for your potentially interest in sending my article for peer review. In answer to clarify your questions I confirm that the ethical approval obtained for the Leiden 85-plus Study, covered also our study. Our study was embedded and conducted within the framework of the Leiden 85-plus Study, so we did not need new ethical approval.

Your second question concerns the methodology and especially the follow-up period. We followed all participants from age 86 years until they reached the age of 90 years. So we had a follow-up for 4 years. I have changed the main test.

We hope you will consider our manuscript for publication in BMC Medicine.

On behalf of all authors, Yours sincerely,

Monique Caljouw