Author's response to reviews

Title: Gender differences in predictors of self-rated health among older adults in Brazil and Chile

Authors:

Ana Cristina V Campos (campos.acv@gmail.com)
Cecilia Albala (calbala@uchile.cl)
Lidia Lera (llera@inta.uchile.cl)
Hugo Sanchez (hsanchez@inta.uchile.cl)
Andréa Maria D Vargas (vargasnt@task.com.br)
Efigênia F Ferreira (efigeniaf@gmail.com)

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Efigênia F Ferreira (efigeniat@gmail.com)
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Lidia Lera (ltera@inta.uchile.cl)
Hugo Sanches (hsanchez@inta.uchile.cl)
Cecilia Albala (calbala@uchile.cl)

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Dear editor and reviewers

We thank for all the suggestions that were essential for this review. Minor changes were made throughout the text. We confirm that all adjustments have been properly made and marked in green text.

Best regards,

The authors.

Referee 1- Reviewer's report:
Minor Essential Revisions

- Was any hypothesis tested or it was rather a “fishing expedition”?  
A: Thanks for this suggestion. Brazil and Chile are the Latin American countries with similar social and economic conditions, but they are at different stages of aging. The SABE study in Chile and the AGEQOL study in Brazil have similar methodologies, with a representative sample of older people whose data were collected by cluster sampling. This is an exploratory study that investigated whether there was a gender difference between perceived health between Chilean and Brazilian older people.

- It is unclear what the rationale of using Chilean and Brazilian samples was. Were there any differences between these populations known and/or expected?  
A: Thanks for this suggestion. I’m a PhD in public health in Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil with sandwich PhD with Dr. Albala, INTA, Uchile, Santiago, Chile. This is a program of Brazilian government – Programa de Doutorado Sanduíche no Exterior (PDSE). It was a period rich learning and scientific production in partnership that results in this article "Gender differences in predictors of self-rated health among older adults in Brazil and Chile".

1 http://www.capes.gov.br/component/content/article?id=4561
Although the two countries, Brazil and Chile, have relatively similar socioeconomic conditions, health perception among Brazilian older people was worse when compared to Chilean older people, with gender differences. So, we were curious whether self-rated health could help explain how and why the aging process is so different even among Latin American countries.

Discretionary Revisions
• Authors might consider using term adults/adult participants/participants instead of “subjects.”
A: Thanks for this suggestion. We used participants instead of “subjects.”

• Page 2 line 15: ADL and IADL should be when used first time.
A: Thanks for this suggestion. We used activities of daily living for ADL and instrumental activities for IADL.

• Page 12 lines 13-15: the statement should edited or omitted
A: Thanks for this suggestion. This statement was omitted.

Referee 2- Reviewer's report:
This is a very interesting paper that aims to compare gender differences in predictors of self-rated health (SRH) in two different populations of older adults namely Brazilian and Chilean. More importantly, this is one of the few studies from South American countries to study the effects of socioeconomic status and health on SRH among older adults when attempting to understand health inequalities between men and women. This article is useful for all researchers who use self-rated health, particularly for those analyzing social inequalities in health. Another important aspect is that this paper will help to strengthen the research on aging in Latin America. Overall, this is a thorough, well written and concise manuscript, with appropriate data and analyses and clear summary of findings and I recommend its publication without revision.
A: Thank you for all your kind words and considerations on our study.