Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of aging out of heavy episodic drinking in emerging adults: a systematic review protocol.

Version: 0 Date: 29 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Heather Gotham

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript presents the study protocol for a proposed systematic review of predictors of 'maturing out' or resolution of risky or harmful alcohol use during young adulthood. This is an important area of study for several reasons. Since the mid-1990s, there has been a proliferation of studies examining this topic, especially high quality longitudinal studies. The time is really ripe for a systematic review that attempts to bring some order to this large body of research. This type of study that aims to examine individual difference factors affecting young adult outcomes is very much needed to understand the maturation process and down the line design more effective prevention and early intervention programs. The manuscript is very well-written, clear, and concise, with good attention to details and methodology. The authors paid very close attention to the PRISMA-P guidelines in developing the manuscript. The potential significance of this study is quite high given the readiness of the literature for such a review and the expertise of the investigative team.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose

...
financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal