Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnicity, sleep, mood, and illumination in postmenopausal women

Version: 2 Date: 19 March 2004

Reviewer: Francis Dane

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have dealt completely with the revisions I suggested in my first review. Although I retain some skepticism about the degree to which one should include subsamples of size 3 in an analysis based on a total sample in excess of 400, the authors are correct that readers (who have sufficient statistical background) would be well guided by the confidence intervals contained in the tables. The problematic language concerning generalization and ratio-level measures has been sufficiently revised. I would recommend that the authors avoid causal language in the results section; e.g., “were influenced by ethnicity.” Obviously, participants were not randomly assigned to ethnicity, so the more correct language would be “associated with,” “differed as a function of,” or “were associated with” ethnicity. However, this recommendation is rather trivial insofar as all readers will know that ethnicity was not a manipulated variable.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None