

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 17th, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our revised manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript 13334-Revision.doc), which we hope will be accepted for publication.

**Title:** Associative stigma in family members of psychotic patients in Flanders: an exploratory study.

**Author:** Kirsten Catthoor, Didier Schrijvers, Joost Hutsebaut, Dineke Feenstra, Philippe Persoons, Marc De Hert, Jozef Peuskens, Bernard Sabbe

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Psychiatry*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13334

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

1. Introduction: The apparent contradiction between "...whereas there is doubt if the diagnosis of the patient is of any significance" and "Hence, the abovementioned findings strongly indicate a stigmatizing effect of the diagnosis of a psychotic disease on family members of the patient", is adapted by adding that evidence in literature is not conclusive.

2. Materials and Methods:

- *Measures:* The presence of just 1 positive answer... was added in the text as requested.

3. Results:

- *Level of associative stigma:*

- The apparent contradiction between the 2 sentences was clarified by adding the following: "The average total sum of all subjective stigmatization experienced by family members was 6.0 ( $\pm$  SD 5.6), with scores ranging from 0 to 30.
- Pronounced was replaced by less frequent as suggested.
- Present mode was replaced by past mode as suggested.

- *Predictive factors:* levels of statistical significance were added as requested.

4. Discussion:

- *Limitations:* The title is changed to Limitations and strengths. Conceptual difficulties are adapted as requested. Repetition of the limitations is removed from the text.

5. Conclusion: The suggestion of replacing the word “substantial” has been followed.

The first 2 alineas of the introduction are partly a repetition of the introduction of another article on associative stigma the same authors wrote, and are only meant to provide some background on the topic. It was published in World Journal of Psychiatry in September 2014. It is possible that iThenticate recognizes these similarities as plagiarism, which it is not. The reference of this article is mentioned in the text, but we choose to avoid excessive self-citing. I hope the editors can agree with that.

The first reference on the list is a publication of major importance on the subject of the article. There is no DOI or PMID code available. Therefore, we send you in attachment the first page of the publication, with clear complete reference.

Due to biostatistician review, there has been minor text changes in the text, clearly high lightened in yellow, comparable to the rest of the adaptations.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Psychiatry*.

We hope to hear from you soon!

With kind regards,

Kirsten Catthoor, MD