Author's response to reviews

Title: The effects of plant stanol ester consumption on arterial stiffness and endothelial function in adults. A randomised controlled clinical trial.

Authors:

Helena Gylling (helena.gylling@hus.fi)
Janne Halonen (janne.halonen@ttl.fi)
Harri Lindholm (harri.lindholm@ttl.fi)
Jussi Konttinen (jussi.konttinen@ttl.fi)
Piia Simonen (piia.simonen@hus.fi)
Markku J Nissinen (markku.nissinen@hus.fi)
Aslak Savolainen (aslak.savolainen@yle.fi)
Airi Talvi (airi.talvi@sok.fi)
Maarit Hallikainen (maarit.hallikainen@uef.fi)

Version: 5 Date: 25 June 2013

Author's response to reviews:

Point-by-point responses to Reviewer 2.

Thank you for the comments. The corrections are highlighted using red font.

Reviewer's report

Title: The effects of plant stanol ester consumption on arterial stiffness and endothelial function in adults. A randomised controlled clinical trial.

Version: 3 Date: 19 June 2013

Reviewer: Arienne de Jong

Response: Changed as suggested.

Vascular measurements paragraph 3:

PAT measures pulse volume amplitude in peripheral digital arteries.

Response: Changed as suggested.

Vascular measurements, paragraph 4:
Another outcome variable from the PAT measurement is the augmentation index (AI) measured from peripheral digital arteries. Change to:
Another outcome variable derived from the PAT measurement is the augmentation index (AI) measured in the peripheral digital arteries. 
Response: Changed as suggested.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field 
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests

Point-by-point responses to Reviewer 3.
Thank you for the comments. The corrections are highlighted using red font.
Reviewer's report
Title: The effects of plant stanol ester consumption on arterial stiffness and endothelial function in adults. A randomised controlled clinical trial.
Version: 3 Date: 17 June 2013
Reviewer: Suhad S. AbuMweis
Reviewer's report:
Minor:
Please refer to the Physical activity Questionnaire that you used in the Methods
Response: The physical activity questionnaire has been added to Methods, page 7, para 1.
Please add the results of the subgroup analysis by responding or not to plant stanol therapy based on changes in LDL to the Results.
Response: A sentence has been added to Results, page 13 para 1 last lines.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I have no conflict of interest