Author's response to reviews

Title: Are the Cochrane group registers comprehensive? A case study of Japanese psychiatry trials

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PDF covering letter
Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for provisionally accepting our paper entitled "Are the Cochrane group registers comprehensive? A case study of Japanese psychiatry trials" as a research article in BioMed Central Medical Research Methodology, and offering us the opportunity to improve the manuscript.

In response to the reviewer's comments, we added the following information to the manuscript.

1) The number of pharmaceutical companies contacted was 20.
2) The number of Japanese journals handsearched was 35.
3) Yes, there were several studies found only in the Cochrane group registers and not in the Japanese database. They were reports of trials with Japanese patients but reported only in the English language. This is understandable because the Japanese database we established contained only reports in the Japanese language. These situations were clarified in the Results section as follows. "The remaining three studies found in the CCDAN register but not in the Japanese database were English reports of RCTs conducted in Japan but reported only in the English language." and "The remaining 12 reports found in the CSG register but not in the Japanese register were reports of RCTs conducted in Japan but published only in the English journals." (Page 5 of the revised manuscript)
4) The grammatical errors pointed out in the reviewer's minor comments were taken account of.

We also reformatted the manuscript in accordance with the checklist.

We thank you very much for your comments.

Sincerely yours,
Toshi Furukawa