Author's response to reviews

Title: Hertfordshire Sarcopenia Study (HSS): Design and Methods

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Version: 2 Date: 2 June 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you for considering publishing our study protocol. We have revised it accordingly and our revisions are highlighted in the resubmitted document and explained below.

**Introduction:**

1. **Title page**
   - We have simplified the email contact list by taking out authors’ affiliations

2. **Abstract**
   - The subheading results has been removed and the text appended to the methods. Addition of the word ‘have’ in the sentence “between 1931 and 1939 who have historical….”

3. **Tissue preparation and fixation (p10)**
   - Addition of the word ‘later’
   - Addition of density (fibres/mm²), (µm²) and (capillaries/mm²) for clarity

4. **Section on DXA has been inserted after tissue preparation and fixation (p10)**

5. **Section on anthropometry has been inserted after the section on DXA (p10)**

6. **Comma inserted between ‘hands’ and ‘using’ in the grip strength section for clarity (p11)**

7. ‘five timed’ and ‘6 metre’ added for clarity in the section on physical performance measures (p11)

8. **Results heading removed and replaced with ‘summary of investigations completed so far’ (p14)**

9. **Muscle strength changed to muscle function with explanation in brackets (p15) muscle function (grip strength and the physical performance battery)**

10. **Sentence to include the number of participants that completed the questionnaires (p15) All 105 participants completed the health and activity questionnaires and 98 participants completed both the AH4 and Mill Hill tests.**

11. **Statistical analysis (p16)**
    - Students t-test added (p16)
    - Sample size calculation has been included (p17)