Author's response to reviews

Title: Study protocol for prevention of falls: a randomized controlled trial of effects of vitamin D and exercise on falls prevention

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The statement of the Ethics Committee and the funding decisions of Ministry of Education and Academy of Finland with peer review comments are enclosed. Unfortunately the documents are in Finnish except the reviews.

The study protocol has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Tampere University Hospital, Tampere, Finland (R09090) (Top of the page 7 in the manuscript).

The project is funded by governmental funding without any commercial funding/assistance. The major funding has been awarded by Academy of Finland (400 000 €, grant no. 131524) and the Finnish Ministry of Education (87,000 €). In addition, we have some smaller grants from the Medical Research Fund of Tampere University Hospital (grants no. 9K139, 9L108, 9M109, 28,000 €). These grants are listed and acknowledged in page 14.

Verman AB (Kerava, Finland) has provided vitamin D/placebo products, but the company does not participate in the study process in any way (planning, executing or writing process) or have any rights for the results (Page 14).

So far we do not have any manuscripts under submission. The study protocol is registered in ClinicalTrial.gov –register (NCT00986466).