Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of a Multifactorial Falls Prevention Program in community-dwelling older people when compared to usual care: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial (PREVQUEDAS BRAZIL)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To Ms. Catherine Olino

Journal Editorial Office, Biomed Central

29th January 2013

Dear Ms Olino,

We are pleased to have the chance to answer your queries concerning the submission of the protocol entitled: ‘Effectiveness of a Multifactorial Falls Prevention Program in community-dwelling older people when compared to usual care: study protocol for a randomised controlled trial (PREVQUEDAS BRAZIL)’.

First of all we would like to clarify that we have not started the enrollment process yet. We are planning to begin recruiting by the middle of March. You can find below our point by point answer to your questions.

1. Therefore, could you please clarify whether you have ethical approval and external funding for your study, and if so, could you send evidence of your approvals to the address below?

   Yes, we do have ethical approval for our study. Since it is written in Portuguese, we are providing a translation of its main pieces, as shown in the attached document.

   We have recently received the approval of an external funding for our study: FAPESP – Sao Paulo Research Support Foundation. FAPESP, that is an independent public foundation, which main mission is to foster scientific and technological research and development for the state of São Paulo – Brazil. FAPESP’s Term of Agreement is promised to be available by February 01, 2013, i.e., after the end of its general vacations period (from 24 December 24, 2012 to January 28, 2013). Right now, we do have the approval document of the Project for the Research Grants and we are enclosing a letter from Professor Luiz Eugenio Garcez Leme, who is the principal investigator.

   We would also like to clarify that this project is not funded by any pharmaceutical company or any other private company.

2. If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents.

   We performed the translation of the document’s main parts. Attached, we are sending you its original in Portuguese and the translated version of the relevant parts. We also provided the document endorsement by the responsible authority.

3. N.B. Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

   For clearness, here follows the list of attachments:

   1. The Ethics Committee for Analysis of Research Projects
4. Could you also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol?

There are no other manuscripts under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

We hope we have clarified all the questions but we will be glad to provide any other information you need.

Best regards,

Kelem N Cabral on behalf of the authors