Author's response to reviews

Title: The eCALM Trial: eTherapy for Cancer AppLying Mindfulness Online mindfulness-based cancer recovery program for underserved individuals living with cancer in Alberta: protocol development for a randomized wait-list controlled clinical trial.

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Version: 3 Date: 25 January 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
January 25, 2013

Dear Dr. Rowles,

Thank you so much for the good news regarding the publication of our paper The eCALM Trial: eTherapy for Cancer AppLying Mindfulness - Online mindfulness-based cancer recovery program for underserved individuals living with cancer in Alberta: protocol development for a randomized wait-list controlled clinical trial, in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

We have addressed each of the remaining concerns and issues raised by yourself and the reviewer, as detailed below. Each comment is copied verbatim in a text box followed by our response and excerpts from the revised manuscript, as necessary, in italics.

Editorial Comments:

We would request that you provide further information in your Competing Interests section. For instance, we note that one of your authors is associated with 'Mindful Living Programs'. While this is noted in the reviewer affiliations on your title page, we would also ask that it be included in your Competing Interests. Further, could we ask you to clarify any role by eMindful Inc or Mindful Living Programs have, or will have, in the funding, design, implementation, or interpretation of your study. This information should also be included in your Competing Interests section.

Thank you for this comment. We have added the requested information to the Competing Interests section on page 20: Kelley McCabe is the CEO and Founder of eMindful. Kelley McCabe also has an investment in eMindful. Kelley McCabe will provide in-kind support for the facilitation of the online MBCR programs through eMindful, but has played only a technical role in study design and will not be involved in data analysis or interpretation. Steven Flowers is an employee of Mindful Living Programs. Steven Flowers has been involved in the implementation of this trial by facilitating the online mindfulness classes, and will help with interpretation by editing manuscripts, but has not, or will not have involvement in the funding of this trial or data analysis.

Reviewer #1 Comments:

While it may be atypical for a “study design” article to be published midstream, I can see no reason that the article should be delayed any longer. There is one compulsory requirement to my approval: The intended final sample size must be included in the ABSTRACT.
This requested addition to the abstract has been made on page 2: An anticipated sample size of 64 participants will complete measures online pre and post treatment or waiting period.

We hope that these changes have adequately addressed the concerns raised by the editor and reviewer. We feel the paper is now much improved and look forward to hearing from you regarding its status in the near future.

Sincerely,

Linda E. Carlson, Ph.D., R.Psych.
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