Reviewer's report

Title: A double-blind, randomized clinical trial of whole-food dietary supplementation on cognitive and immune functioning in healthy older adults

Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2013

Reviewer: Liz Isenring

Reviewer's report:

This study will be of interest to readers and will be acceptable for publication following these Minor Essential Revisions:

1) Abstract: hard to read as a stand alone. ie describe the key cognitive tests in abstract or list more general tests (just hard to read in the results when not described in the methods)

2) define whole foods

3) I would like more detail re N calculation and these cognitive tests ie what is the clinical importance of these differences. Can you provide some practical examples of what this might mean in performing tasks/activities

4) provide more details re what sups re cognitive function were recommended not to take. How was this checked?

5) Discussion- provide further details re the previous gingko studies. N, primary outcomes, actual results etc.

6) why was the other supplement investigated as well as gingko, this could be better described

7) any plans to perform this study in those with declining cognitive fn?

8) Perform another editorial review to pick up typos e.g. Vitamin E rather than Vitamins E in abstract

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests