Author's response to reviews

Title: Alexithymia and its associations with burnout's facets, depression and family support among Greek nursing staff

Authors:

Dionisios Bratis (dionbratis@yahoo.gr)
Athanasios Tselebis (atselebis@yahoo.gr)
Christos Sycaras (cris.sikaras@gmail.com)
Aikaterini Moulou (aikmoulou@yahoo.gr)
Konstantinos Giotakis (kgiotakis@gmail.com)
Emmanuel Zoumakis (zoumakis@bioacademy.gr)
Ioannis Ilias (iiliasmd@yahoo.com)

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RESPONSES TO REVIEWERS

1. The title has been rephrased.

2. The introduction as well as the research hypothesis and aims of the study have been clarified.

3. Further references have been added regarding the relationship between alexithymia and depression.

4. Regarding MBI – the correlations were performed vis-à-vis the three components of this tool.

5. TAS-20: further information is provided regarding this scale (subscales and reversals)

6. FS: further information is provided (examples of questions and reversals).

7. The sample size in the method has been corrected to 95. The difference stems from the fact that although 100 nurses were chosen, 95 accepted to participate in it.

8. The smaller n=79 regarding family support is attributed to the fact that this scale applies only to people living with others. In our sample 16 persons lived alone; this has been clarified in the methods section.

9. The statistical software used as well as the methods used (stepwise linear regression) are now given in the methods section.

10. In the discussion section references regarding the occasional, dependent or immutable character of alexithymia are given; it is precised that the assessment of these characteristics are beyond the scope of this research paper.

11. The limitations of the study regarding the non-inclusion of working environment factors are mentioned.

12. The terminology regarding the components of MBI has been corrected.

13. A reference to table 1 has been added.

14. The conclusions were revised, taking into account all the above modifications.