Author's response to reviews

Title: Physical activity as a treatment for depression: the TREAD randomised trial protocol

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Version: 5 Date: 11 November 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
5 November 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank for reconsidering and agreeing to publish the enclosed manuscript in BMC Trials. The paper describes the protocol for a study known as ‘TREAD’ which evaluates the effectiveness of physical activity as a treatment for depression within the UK primary care setting.

The research is led by the University of Bristol in collaboration with the University of Exeter and the Peninsula Medical School. It is funded by the Department of Health as part of their Health Technology Assessment programme and the results are due to be published in early 2011.

Given the current prevalence of depression and its associated economic burden, we believe that the findings from this trial will make a valuable contribution to the existing evidence-base and, as such, will be of interest to patients, clinicians and policy-makers.

Should you require any further detail about the study, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Helen Baxter