Author's response to reviews

Title: Study protocol for the recreational stimulation for elders as a vehicle to resolve delirium superimposed on dementia (Reserve For DSD) trial

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Version: 2 Date: 22 April 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We thank Dr. Tony Marson for the thoughtful review of our protocol. Please see our **bolded** responses to the issues raised in the review.

The only issue I would ask the investigators to consider are

1. I would prefer to see one rather than a number of primary outcomes.

   **We agree with Dr. Marson that fewer primary outcomes would be preferable. However, our grant application was reviewed and funded as written here. If acceptable, we would like to keep the aims as written so they correspond with the aims as published on the NIH website. We will comply with the reviewer’s wishes.**

2. Is it possible to reliably measure the duration of delirium in patients with dementia?

   **Dr. Marson makes a very valid point, one that researchers in the field have struggled with over time. There is overlap between the features of dementia and those of delirium. However our team is using a state of the art, sensitive instrument to measure delirium which has been validated in persons with dementia (The Confusion Assessment Method). Furthermore, our enrollment criteria exclude individuals who are most difficult to assess for delirium, those with severe dementia.**

We hope our responses address the concerns raised in the review. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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