Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of Emotion Recognition Training on Mood among Individuals with High Levels of Depressive Symptoms: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Davis,

Re: Effects of Emotion Recognition Training on Mood Among Individuals with High Levels of Depressive Symptoms

Please find enclosed a copy of our revised manuscript “Effects of Emotion Recognition Training on Mood Among Individuals with High Levels of Depressive Symptoms”. We address the reviewer comments in the revised manuscript here, and detail our response to the concerns raised.

The authors have satisfactorily responded to my previous comments, apart from one minor issue. I agree with them it is appropriate to use the state version of the PANAS to measure affect (e.g. how do you feel right now?). However, as a result I think it is slightly misleading to say affect is measured over the course of a day in the methods (on p.11), which is not the same as the state measure described in their cover letter. Across a single day, such state affect can substantially vary (e.g. today I feel 100% happy now I am about to go home from work, but was only 10% happy two hours ago when I had to mark a pile of essays). It would be useful to be fully explicit in the methods about the exact time frame of these ratings.

The standardised version of the PANAS which we are administering asks participants to rate mood based on “what extent you feel this way right now”. This is now reflected in the protocol on p. 11.

On p. 10 and p. 11 we have also amended the time course of the other primary and second outcome measures, to accurately reflect what is measured in the present study.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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