Reviewer's report

Title: Mindfulness, cognitive processes and coping in chronic illness: a protocol for a randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effect of mindfulness training prior to total joint arthroplasty on post-operative pain and physical function

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2014

Reviewer: Christi Ulmer

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript outlining the details of an ongoing trial of mindfulness training in for improving outcomes following total joint arthroplasty. The authors provide a thorough background and empirical review. As noted by the authors, mindfulness training has not been previously examined in this population. Only a few points of clarification are suggested to improve the manuscript, as follows:

Major Compulsory Revisions

None.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Page 5: The authors report that most MBSR studies report low attrition. It has been argued that low attrition rates in MBSR may be attributable to the rigorous screening process and the commitment required of study participants to practice a minimum number of hours each day. Please describe any information provided to potential study participants about the requirements for their participation in the study.

2. The MBSR program involves yoga. Will any modifications to the MBSR program be made to accommodate the possible mobility limitations of this patient population? If so, please describe.

3. Page 10: “Self-reported past psychiatric history will be obtained during the pre-surgery assessment to account for previous psychological problems.” Will a structured clinical interview be employed to accomplish this objective? If so, please describe.

4. Page 10: “Participants will be asked to rate their adherence to mindfulness practice.” Please say more about this process. Will a questionnaire be used? How often will this be assessed?

5. Table 1: Does the 3-Month Booster session happen on the same day as the 3-month assessment for the intervention group? If so, what is the sequence of events and are there concerns about demand characteristics?

6. Table 1: Is the MMSE given at each assessment point, or used as a screener
at baseline only?
Discretionary Revisions
None.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.