Author’s response to reviews

Title: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FITNESS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH VERBAL MEMORY, QUALITY OF LIFE AND DEPRESSION AMONG NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: PRELIMINARY DATA OF A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Aimee Cummings and Anne Menard,

thank you for providing the necessary corrections to the manuscript “PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FITNESS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH VERBAL MEMORY, QUALITY OF LIFE AND DEPRESSION AMONG NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: PRELIMINARY DATA OF A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL” (BGTC-D-17-00526) so that it could be considered for the review process.

This is the answer to the proposed corrections:

1. We have included a statement within the manuscript to indicate that the study adheres to CONSORT guidelines: "This study adheres to the Consolidated Standards of Reporting
Trials (CONSORT) guidelines" (page 8; line 2). We have also included a completed CONSORT checklist as an additional file and we have submitted the resulted revised manuscript. Please, note that the manuscript reports the preliminary data of the baseline assessment of a randomized clinical trial, as it is stated in the title and in the manuscript. The protocol of our randomized clinical trial study was published on BMC Geriatrics (2017) 17:60 DOI 10.1186/s12877-017-0453-0.

2. We agree with the consideration that the contribution of MI, as it was written in the previous version of the manuscript, does not justify for authorship. We are very sorry for the error and the inconvenience that could have generated. We have corrected it including the following statement in the manuscript (page 15; line 13): "HA, SG, JY, JI, MI and AR participated in the design of the study. MI, HA and AR participated in the recruitment process of the participants. HA, CR and IE were responsible for data collection. AR and JI performed the statistical analyses. HA, CR, IE, MI, SG, JY, JI, and AR drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript."

3. We have provided a statement of the role of the funding body in this piece of research in the "Funding" section of the declarations as it follows: "This study was supported by a Project from the Basque Government (ELKARTEK 15/39; Nº. EXPT: KK-2015/00106). Specifically, the role of the funding body in this piece of research was directed to the acquisition of the material for the assessments (e.g. accelerometers, dumbbells, chronometers, chairs) and to the displacement of the researchers to the nursing homes" (page 15; line 7).

4. We have added a separate heading of "Figure Legends" after the References in the revised manuscript. (Page 20;line 15).

Sincerely,