Author’s response to reviews

Title: Aging-simulation experience: Impact on health professionals’ social representations

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Dear Mario Ulises Pérez-Zepeda,

We are pleased to learn that our manuscript « Aging-simulation experience : impact on health professionals’ social représentations » (BGTC-D-19-00615) is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Geriatrics. We have carried out the essential revisions suggested by the reviewers. This point-by-point response letter accompanies the revised manuscript and provides a detailed response to each point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text.

Points raised by Fernando Runzer (reviewer 1):
Introduction : « I recommend to the authors to justify the research better. Rationale is described but no justified ». Detailed response : research was justified by the importance of lifelong learning in reducing age-discriminating behaviors of health professionals in care services. This justification has been added in the introduction (pages 4 and 5, lines 67 to 84).

Methods : « Participants : add more details about professions included and, in the other hand, how many participants were excluded due to eligibility criteria ». Detailed response : description of all the professions of the participants was added to the results (page 9, lines 173 to 176) and participants
excluded due to eligibility criteria were specified in the results (page 9, lines 168 to 171).

Methods: «Give more detailed informations about the aging suit (weight, for example)». Detailed response: we completed the description of the aging-simulation suit in the methods section (page 7, lines 134 to 140).

Discussion: «Discuss statistics limitations: selection bias (and its impact)». Detailed response: we discussed more about selection bias and its limitations on outcomes (page 12, lines 261 to 269).

Points raised by Natalia Sánchez Garrido (reviewer 2):

Introduction: «Mention that not only there is a lack of geriatric medicine in the health professions but there is also ageism instructed by society and families. Students and professional already have a stereotype in their heads of older adults. So, these sensory difficulties are seen as normal and not something that can diminish older adults' quality of life». Detailed response: in the introduction, we focused more on age-discriminating behaviors and on the increase of negative stereotypes about aging in society (page 4, lines 69 to 77).

Discussion: «It would be advisable to give a hypothesis to why the participants were impacted in both knowledge and feelings. Many participants were familiar with age-related changes so they knew what to expect, after the use of the suit they learned how that change makes them feel. Also, it should be stated as a limitation that participants were all working in a geriatrics or gerontology area, that means that they all had some positive attitudes towards older adults and knowledge about what to expect». Detailed response: in the discussion, we added the hypothesis that the strong emotional power of the aging-simulation experience impacted knowledge and feelings of the participants (page 11, lines 236 to 241). We have also insisted on the selection bias of our population of health professionals working in geriatrics and potentially having particular knowledge and attitudes toward older persons (pages 12 and 13, lines 261 to 269).

Quality of written english: «The manuscript needs some language corrections before being published». Detailed response: the manuscript was reviewed and corrected by a person fluent in English.

We hope that this amended version of the manuscript will be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Julie Giner Perot