Author's response to reviews

Title: Does Fast muscle Activation and Stepping Training (FAST) commenced within 6 months following stroke result in improved balance and mobility compared to an active control physiotherapy intervention? Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Shipley,

Please accept the resubmission of our study protocol manuscript entitled, “Does Fast muscle Activation and Stepping Training (FAST) commenced within 6 months following stroke result in improved balance and mobility compared to an active control physiotherapy intervention? Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.” In response to feedback from Jhonell De Los Santos in your editorial office, we have provided the following:

1. Ethical and Funding approval documentation: We have emailed proofs to your editorial office of our external funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon, and the renewal of our approval from the University of British Columbia Human Research Ethics Board. You will note in our latest ethics renewal an amendment was made to include MRI investigations. These will form a small pilot study that is not core to the RCT protocol described in this manuscript.

2. Study status and related articles: We confirm that our study is ‘ongoing’ and that we have recruited less than half of the required participants. We have not submitted nor published the results of this study elsewhere.

3. Revisions in the manuscript: In addition to acknowledging our funder, we have included the funding details under “Competing Interests” (p 25, L467-8). Blinding relating to the location of this study have been removed on p 7 (L 97-1030, p 16 (L284-5), and p 24 (L 441, 445) as this manuscript will not be going out to blinded reviewers. Track changes have been used to highlight these changes within the manuscript.

Thank you for considering our manuscript.
Sincerely,

Dr Kimberly Miller, PhD PT
Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow