Author’s response to reviews

Title: An investigation of cortical neuroplasticity following stroke in adults: is there evidence for a critical window for rehabilitation?

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Version: 3 Date: 11 June 2015

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Nhell

Thank you for your email regarding our submission to BMC Neurology entitled: An investigation of cortical neuroplasticity following stroke in adults: is there evidence for a critical window for rehabilitation? We have addressed the comments in your email as follows:

• **Please include email addresses of all authors on title page.** This has been added.

• **Requesting Line Numbering**
  This has been added and page breaks have been removed.

• **Requesting Acknowledgements section**
  Detail regarding the funding of the study is in the paper under the heading Study Organisation and Funding, page 8, line 176. However, we have added a ‘Acknowledgements’ section on page 9, line 214 which also acknowledges a postdoctoral fellow who was involved in the project but has since moved to another institution. All relevant funding sources for the authors have been added.

• **Please clarify whether the study has been peer reviewed by one of its funding bodies.**
  This study has been funded by the major government research administrative body in Australia, the National Health and Medical Research Council. A copy of this letter and a snapshot of the application confirming the title and chief investigators have been emailed as requested. The project also has Ethical approval, which involves the Human Research Ethics Committee approval and the site specific approvals for the hospitals involved. All three of these letters have been sent via email. This is evidence that the protocol has undergone extensive peer review by the government funding agency and the Human Research Ethics Committee.

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation
   The following documents have been emailed as requested:
   - Funding: I have attached the NHMRC approval letter and an application summary confirming that the project has the same ID number and team.
   - Ethical approval: I have attached the HREC approval letter, and the site specific approval required for governance at the relevant hospitals.

2. Funding
   As stated above, the study has been funded in Australia by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the relevant documents have been emailed.

3. Study status
   The study described in the protocol is ongoing. We have recruited 10 participants from an anticipated sample size of 70 and are still recruiting and collecting data.

4. Related Articles
   No studies have related to this study have been submitted or published elsewhere.
Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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