Author’s response to reviews

Title: Understanding and Optimizing Brain Health in HIV Now: Protocol for a Longitudinal Cohort Study with Multiple Randomized Controlled Trials

Authors:
Nancy Mayo (nancy.mayo@mcgill.ca)
Marie-Josée Brouillette (marie-josee.brouillette@mcgill.ca)
Lesley Fellows (lesley.fellows@mcgill.ca)

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Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Editor, BMC Neurology

Thank you for the opportunity to revise this manuscript.

This study has been externally peer-reviewed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. A sentence providing this information has been added at the end of the Introduction, and the proof of peer-review has been submitted directly to the Editorial Office, as requested. Likewise, this study has received full ethics approval. This is now stated at the end of the Introduction, and proof of ethics approval was submitted directly to the Editorial Office. No articles arising from this protocol have been published yet. We have reported some preliminary findings as abstracts at scientific meetings. I am happy to provide a list, if necessary.

We have updated the Competing Interests section to include information about two commercial entities that have provided in-kind support for two of the intervention trials that are part of the overall protocol. Neither of these entities has had any input into the design of these trials, nor will they have any control over the analysis or eventual dissemination of the results. The authors have no fiduciary relationship with either of these entities.
The study is on-going. Recruitment and follow-up will continue until December 2017. A statement to this effect is now included in the manuscript.

Ethics and Consent: The study involves humans. A section on Ethics and Consent processes is provided on page 16; the consent process is now described in more detail. No individual clinical data are presented.

Availability of supporting data: We report only preliminary data in this protocol. The intention is to make all data from this study publically accessible after publication of the main planned studies by the research team. This is now stated in the protocol.

Authors contributions for the primary authors have been specified in the relevant section. We also report the contributions of the whole research team, in more general terms. Please advise me if you want individual contributions to be specified, author by author, for this long list of research team members who are currently listed under the general heading of the “Positive Brain Health Now Investigators”.

I hope all your comments have been fully addressed; thank you for considering this submission.

Regards,

Lesley Fellows