Author's response to reviews

Title: ComOn Coaching: How much coaching do oncological clinicians need? The effect of a varied number of coaching sessions on transfer into clinical practice following communication skills training. Study protocol of a randomized controlled trial

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find enclosed the revision of the Study Protocol entitled “ComOn Coaching: How much coaching do oncological clinicians need? The effect of a varied number of coaching sessions on transfer into clinical practice following communication skills training. Study protocol of a randomized controlled trial”.

Thanks for considering our paper for publication. Answering to the questions asked, I would like to say that I am submitting this Paper for exclusive consideration of publication in BMC Cancer. As ours is an ongoing study and we are still assessing data, no publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. A publication of the validation process of our checklist is being prepared. In order to guarantee the comparability of the instruments we based our questionnaires on the checklist so that the checklist was validated but the questionnaires were not. I complemented the text with this information on line 180. In the process of preparing the checklist paper there was a change in the translation of the checklist into English. I changed the text of the Checklist in the present paper (table 1) accordingly.

As to the question about the financial support and the ethical approval, our project is supported by the German Cancer Aid (Deutsche Krebshilfe, a non-commercial organization) and was peer-reviewed in the financial approval process. I complemented the acknowledgement section with this information. Ethical approvals were granted both by the Ethical Commission of the Freiburg Medical Center as well as by the Ethical Commission of the Technische
Universität München. Both approval letters were forwarded in German and in English to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com together with the original funding approval. I made a summarizing translation of this letter and sent it with the original. For further questions you may contact Mrs. Annika Marks of the German Cancer Aid: + 49 228 729 220, marks@krebshilfe.de

I certify that the manuscript is being submitted by me on behalf of all the authors. It is original work of all authors and all authors made a significant contribution to this study. This manuscript has not been submitted for publication; it has not been accepted for publication and has not been published in any other journal. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Thank you for receiving our manuscript and considering it for review. We appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marcelo Niglio de Figueiredo