Author's response to reviews

Title: Lifestyle factors, demographics and medications associated with depression risk in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
16 October 2014

Mr. Carlo Rye Chua
on behalf of Dr. Adrienne O'Neil
Biomed Central

Dear Dr O'Neil

**Re: Manuscript 6871346891381394 - Lifestyle factors demographics and medications associated with depression risk in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis**

Thank you for reviewing the revisions of our paper ‘*Lifestyle factors demographics and medications associated with depression risk in an international sample of people with multiple sclerosis*’ which we submitted for consideration of publication in your journal.

We have now revised the paper in line with these final comments. We respond to the comments below individually, with each comment listed first, our response in italics, and the exact change we have made in the revised paper in bold. The changes in the revised paper are tracked so that they can be checked.

Reviewer: Jerome Sarris
I am happy to accept this manuscript baring one minor change.
Please request them to adjust their new bar chart figure to say what the significant interactions are i.e. enter P values

*Thank you for this suggestion. We have now inserted a footnote to say: Associations between depression screen and vitamin D supplementation, fish consumption, dietary habits and physical activity were all significant (all p<0.001).*

Reviewer: Anne Kavanagh
The authors have responded most of my concerns. My only comment relates to their response to their response point 2. Recall bias is a form of measurement error. The current wording of the sentence: "Participants self-reported data so the potential for recall bias exists, as well as measurement error...." suggests that they are different.
I suggest that they reword to something like. There is the potential for measurement error because the data are self-reported,....

*Thank you for pointing this out. We have now revised this sentence to read:*
Participants self-reported data so the potential for measurement error such as recall bias exists, as well as potential for this error to be correlated between the exposures and outcomes (dependent misclassification) thus biasing results.

We have also made some minor adjustments to table 3 and figure 1 as we discovered a small error with the categorization of the vitamin D variable. This has not affected the text in the results or discussion section. We hope we have attended to the reviewers’ comments satisfactorily, and that this paper can now be published in the journal.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Keryn Taylor
Corresponding author