Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of spiritual care training to enhance spiritual health and spiritual care competency among oncology nurses

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Author’s response to reviews:

PCAR-D-19-00175, entitled "Effectiveness of spiritual care training to enhance spiritual health and spiritual care competency among oncology nurses"

Dear Esther Fagelson, Ana Soto Rubio, and Paul Galchutt,

Thank you for your letter and your comments concerning our manuscript. According to the comments and suggestions, we have revised the relevant parts of the manuscript and are resubmitting the manuscript.

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards,

Fan Li

Assistant Editor Comments:

1. Please read and address the final reviewer comments which can be found below.

2. Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

3. In your "ethical approval and consent to participate" section of your declarations, please clarify whether the consent obtained was written or verbal. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure.
4. In order to be in line with journal requirements, please include the following headings within your manuscript: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions.

6. Please put your responses to the reviewers'/editors’ comments in the Response to Reviewers box in Editorial Manager. Please do not upload a separate letter.

Please proofread and ensure that when you upload your revised submission it is in the final form for publication. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Additional files should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.

Associate Editor Comments:
Please make the final minor edits suggested by Reviewer 2 in the final submission. Congrats on this nice piece of work.

BMC Palliative Care operates a policy of open peer review, which means that you will be able to see the names of the reviewers who provided the reports via the online peer review system. We encourage you to also view the reports there, via the action links on the left-hand side of the page, to see the names of the reviewers.

Reviewer reports:

Ana Soto Rubio (Reviewer 2): The authors have addressed successfully the issues that needed to be clarified. I find that the paper has improved significantly since last version, and that it is an important and meaningful contribution to the field of study.

Some minor details remain to be addressed:
Line 201-2: "Each session was two hours"; may be it should read something like "Each session was two hours long"; or "Each session lasted two hours"
Line 304-5: "with a moderate to intensity effect"; may be it should read something like "with a moderate to intense effect".

With this little changes, I recommend the article for its publication and congratulate the authors for the research and its contribution to the field.

Paul Galchutt (Reviewer 3): Thank you for making the recommended revisions to your manuscript. Thank you, too, for your contributions to the field. All the best with your endeavors.
Responses to Dr. Esther Fagelson: Thank you very much for your encouragement and for your valuable suggestions.

1. I have read and addressed the final reviewer comments and made the final minor edits suggested by Reviewer 2 in the final submission (I have changed the verb "Each session was two hours" to "Each session lasted two hours" (Methods section, Line 199-200, page 10) and modified the verb "with a moderate to intensity effect" into "with a moderate to intense effect" (Discussion section, Line 302-303, page 15)).

2. I provided a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript, placed it just before the Declarations section (Line 401, page 20) and defined all abbreviations in the text at first use.

3. In our "ethical approval and consent to participate" section, we clarified that the consent obtained was written and the ethics committee approved this procedure (Declarations section, line 406, page 20).

4. We included the following headings within our manuscript: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions.

6. I put our responses to the reviewers'/editors’ comments in the Response to Reviewers box in Editorial Manager. And I uploaded our manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files also were clean versions. We ensured that all figures, tables and additionalplementary files are cited within the text.

Responses to Dr. Soto Rubio (Reviewer 2): Thank you for your careful review and valuable suggestions. We agree with your point of view and have changed the phrase "Each session was two hours" to "Each session lasted two hours" (Methods section, Line 199-200, page 10) and modified the expression "with a moderate to intensity effect" to "with a moderate to intense effect" (4. Discussion section, Line 303-304, page 15). Thank you very much for your help in clarifying the meaning of these expressions, which will also be very helpful for our future essay writing.

Finally, thank you again for your recognition and encouragement of our research work and for your valuable comments. We sincerely appreciate the work of the editors and reviewers.

Thank you again for considering our manuscript for publication, which is very important to us.

Best regards,
Fan Li