Author’s response to reviews

Title: DEMDATA: The Austrian-Czech Institutional Long Term Care Project - design and protocol of a two-centre cross sectional study

Authors:

Stefanie Auer (Stefanie.Auer@mas.or.at)
Elisabeth Linsmayer (Elisabeth.Linsmayer@mas.or.at)
Anna Beránková (beranna@gmail.com)
Patrick Pascher (patrick.pascher@mas.or.at)
Beradette Firlinger (Beradette.Firlinger@donau-uni.ac.at)
Doris Prischl (Doris.Prischl@mas.or.at)
Paulina Paulina Ratajczak (Paulina.Ratajczak@donau-uni.ac.at)
Edith Span (Edith.Span@mas.or.at)
Iva Holmerova (iva.holmerova@gerontocentrum.cz)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Logan,

I am writing to resubmit our manuscript: “DEMDATA: The Austrian-Czech Institutional Long Term Care Project – design and protocol of a two-centre cross sectional study”.

Below please find our response to your questions:

1. Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation

Before we can proceed with your submission, can you please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records.

In a communication with the Editor, these documents have been forwarded to the Editor on March 30, 2017.
2. Funding

A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation).

A Funding Proof has been submitted to the Editorial Office on March 30, 2017

3. Study status

The protocol must be for a study that is ongoing. An 'ongoing' study is defined as one where the investigators are still collecting, or analyzing data. Can you please confirm what stage your study is currently at.

On page 6 of the revised manuscript we state that the “project started in March 2016 and will end in February 2018”. Currently, the data collection is still ongoing and will be completed in June 2017 (data management plan step3).

4. Related Articles

Can you please clarify whether any publications containing the results of this study have already been published or submitted to any journal. If so, can you please provide a list of the related articles.

The study is currently ongoing and no results have been published or submitted to any journal to this date.

5. Can you please include a completed STROBE checklist as an additional file when submitting your revised manuscript.

A completed STROBE checklist is now provided and has been submitted with the revised manuscript.

6. Please provide clarification on whether the ethics approval obtained for each country covers all participating sites, as a central/umbrella approval.

The study plan was presented to the ethics committees in Austria (Ethical committee of the Danube University) and in the Czech Republic (Ethical Committee of the Centre of Gerontology
in Prague, Charles University). In the study plan it is described that the study participants are assessed in different nursing homes in the two countries. Therefore we believe that the ethics statement clearly covers all participating study sites.

7. Figures should be provided as separate files, and each figure of a manuscript should be submitted as a single file.

Separate files for all Figures have now been provided.

8. Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. If Figure titles/legends are within the main text of the manuscript, please move them.

In the revised manuscript, a separate heading was now provided for the “Figure Legends” on page 24.

On pages 8 and 13 of the revised manuscript, Figure titles have been removed.

Titles in the Figures have been removed as well.

We thank you very much for your guidance and hope that we addressed all the questions in a sufficient manner.

Looking forward to a positive response to our revised manuscript.

Best and sincere wishes,

Stefanie Auer

Corresponding Author