Author's response to reviews

Title: The Beyond Ageing Project Phase 2: A double-blind selective prevention randomised placebo-controlled trial of omega-3 fatty acids and sertraline in an older age cohort at risk for depression

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer 1:

Comment 1: I would like the authors to review the statement for hypothesis 1 "participants receiving omega-3 fatty acids and sertraline will..." and check that they really do mean "omega-3 fatty acids AND sertraline" rather than "omega-3 fatty acids OR sertraline".

Response: We thank Reviewer 1 for highlighting this inconsistency. We have modified the following excerpts in the manuscript to reflect the fact that participants will be randomised to receive either omega-3 fatty acids OR sertraline:

Hypothesis 1:
“In comparison to placebo, participants receiving omega-3 fatty acids or sertraline will demonstrate reduced rates of depressive symptoms and reduced occurrence of depressive disorder at 12-months;” Page 14

Hypothesis 4:
“Participants receiving omega-3 fatty acid or sertraline supplementation will demonstrate changes in inflammatory/oxidative stress markers (glutathione, GSH) and neuronal integrity (Nacetylaspartate, NAA) as measured in-vivo by MRS.” Page 14

Editorial requests:

Request 1: Please include the date of registration with the trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.

Response: The Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry registration date has been added to the end of the abstract.

“Trial Registration: Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry ACTRN12610000032055 (12th January 2010).” Page 4

Request 2: Please include a statement in your Methods section explaining that you obtained informed consent from each participant.

Response: The following excerpt has been added to the Methods/Design section of the manuscript:

“Individuals will be required to provide informed consent prior to study participation.” Page 16

Request 3: Please upload the figures as separate files via the online submission system. They should not be included within the main manuscript document.

Response: This has been rectified, the figure has been removed from the manuscript and will be uploaded as a separate file.

Request 4: Please move the tables below the reference list.

Response: This has been rectified in the manuscript.

Request 5: Please include a figure title and legend section after the reference list.
Response: This has now been rectified. The following Figure Legend has been added to the manuscript:

“Title: Flow of Participants
Legend: Graphical representation of the flow of participants through the Beyond Ageing Project Phase 2.” Page 42