**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Motivational climate of group exercise sessions in nursing homes

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 20 Apr 2020

**Reviewer:** Daniel Pinto

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This is an interesting article investigating the motivational climate of group exercise in nursing homes. The research team translated a survey on motivational climate and collected demographic and data on function. Overall this is a well conducted and well reported study. I have minor suggestions for article organization and consideration of potential limitations to the study.

Page 3, line 74 – references

Organizational flow of argument. It seems lines 80-83 are better suited before the statement in line 79-80 for special consideration for group exercise.

Page 4 line 92 - identifies enjoyment as an important consideration that is not further developed in the paper. I suggest this would be more suitable as a limitation to the study.

**Methods:** Inclusion - There is no indication of duration of exercise attendance as an inclusion factor. Was there any consideration of duration, length of time exercising at the frequency of 1x/wk, e.g. exercise participants who consistently exercised for at least 3 months.

Page 5, line 134 - It is unclear why (P25-P75) is there

Tables should stand alone. Include all abbreviations

**Discussion:** In addition to special adaptation as a suggestion to address the functional capacity of those with poorer function it seems exercise group leaders can specifically address this with a communication strategy. This would be an interesting way to attempt to change motivational climate.

A further limitation that is worth exploring is that personality was not captured and can play a role. People have different levels of openness to experiences, individual-level differences in decision making that may feature in how an exercise group climate is considered motivational.

**Level of interest**

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English
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