Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Effect of Culinary Interventions (Cooking Classes) on Dietary Intake and Behavioral Change: A Systematic Review and Evidence Map

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Re: NUTN-D-18-00122R1

The Effect of Culinary Interventions (Cooking Classes) on Dietary Intake and Behavioral Change: A Systematic Review and Evidence Map

Dear Mr. Madsen,

Thank you for accepting our manuscript for publication. We have made all the requested minor revisions. Point-by-point responses are provided in this letter.
Sincerely,

M. Hassan Murad, MD, MPH

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Editor Comments:

1. While assessing your manuscript we found instance where the text displayed overlap with other previously published work, in particular:

https://doi.org/10.1186/s12966-017-0567-y

Overlap with this previously published work was found mainly in lines 359 – 362.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the aforementioned section of your paper to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate.

Thank you for pointing that out. We have reformulated this section (lines 333-337). The source manuscript had been referenced.

2. In the Authors’ contributions subsection of the Declarations please refer to authors using their full initials rather than full names.

Done

3. Please provide a “List of abbreviations” subsection after the Conclusions section. If abbreviations are used in the text, they should be defined in the text at first use and included in this list.

Done

4. It is noticed that the email address of Jehad Almasari as presented on the title page of the manuscript does not match the email address provided in the editorial manager submission system. Please correct this discrepancy.
5. Please include an Acknowledgments subsection in the Declarations. This subsection is the authors’ opportunity to acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials.

Reviewer reports:

Megan McCrory (Reviewer 1):

1. Lines 162-165. The authors are mixing nutrients and food groups; only some of the items listed are nutrients (fiber and unsaturated fat). The rest of the items listed are groups of foods or food categories. "Lean protein" does not make sense. Protein is a macronutrient, which is 4 kcal/gram. There is no way it can be lean or not. Perhaps the authors mean "sources of food which contain protein and are lean". Also, please make clear that the labels "favorable" and "unfavorable" were as used defined in the original studies.

   We have changed “nutrients” to “food groups”. The list would become the following:

   …increase in favorable food groups (fruits, vegetables, low-fat dairy and whole grains) and other sources of dietary fiber, lean sources of protein and unsaturated fats or decrease in unfavorable ones (fast food, high carbohydrate foods, high sugar desserts, saturated and trans fats, and high sodium foods).

   We also made sure that these food groups were correctly defined in the original studies as favorable or desired.

2. Line 180. "Insufficient data" is still not explained. Please add explanation or definition.

   This sentence has become the following:

   In cases were meta-analysis was not feasible because too few studies reported the outcome with sufficient details to allow statistical analysis, we presented the results narratively.

3. Lines 273-274. What is meant by saying "…energy density was significant 'better'…" is unclear. A variable is either significantly higher, or significantly lower. Please clarify.
The sentence is revised to state “significantly lower”.