Author’s response to reviews

Title: EMPOWER-PD - A physical therapy intervention to empower the individuals with Parkinson’s disease: a study protocol for a feasibility randomized controlled trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

October 24th, 2018.

Dear Editorial Board of Pilot and Feasibility Studies

Please find enclosure the reviewed version of the manuscript “PAFS-D-18-00025

EMPOWER-PD - A physical therapy intervention to empower the individuals with Parkinson's disease: a study protocol for a feasibility randomized controlled trial” by Alessandra Swarowsky, Ph.D.; Helena de Oliveira Braga, PT, Master degree; Elaine Cristina Gregório, PT; Rafaela Simon Myra, PT; Ana Sofia Kauling de Sousa, PT; Talita Vitorina Kuhn, PT; Jéssica Klug, PT; Adriana Coutinho de Azevedo Guimarães, Ph.D.

The authors would like to thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript. We addressed all the points suggested by the reviewer. All the changes done in this second revising version were highlighted in yellow therefore the reviewer can promptly find the corrections.
Sincerely yours,

Alessandra Swarowsky on behalf of the authors.

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Reviewer reports:

Authors: First, we would like to thank you for your important comments and suggestions to improve our manuscript. We accept all the suggestions because all of them have improved the quality of the work. So, thank you again.

On page 4, lines 39-40 you have written: "The sample size of this study will be based on the qualitative variables and will be adopted the recruitment of 6-12 participants per group as recommended." which to me is unclear.

May I suggest your rewrite this as: "The target sample size of this study will be 40, based on recommendations for qualitative research"?

Authors: Thank you. When you are referring to the number “40”, we believe that it is a misunderstood. Probably there may have been a configuration error, because “40” is the number of the line where this sentence was written. We ask apologies for that.

On page 11, lines 145, you have written "but it will enable a sample size calculation related to the quantitative variables for a future randomized trial." Please could you substantiate this claim with a reference from the literature on using pilot studies to estimate sample sizes for definitive trials?

Authors: Thank you. We included the reference as recommended.

Page 23, line 297: please correct "confident interval" to "confidence interval"

Authors: Thank you we corrected this typing error.
Page 23, lines 298-299: please remove the sentence "A significance level of 5% will be used for all analyses." assuming that your analyses will be descriptive and not involve significance testing.

Authors: Thank you, the referee is completely right. We excluded this sentence as recommended.