

Author's response to reviews

Title: Concentrated oat beta-glucan, a fermentable fiber, lowers serum cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic adults in a randomized controlled trial

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Version: 3 **Date:** 31 January 2007

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January 31, 2007

Nutrition Journal
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Dear Editor:

We appreciate the reviewers' comments on our manuscript entitled "Concentrated oat β -glucan, a fermentable fiber, lowers serum cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic adults in a randomized controlled trial." We have made the changes requested by the reviews, which are described below.

Reviewer 1- Jennifer Robinson

1. Changes in LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol were reported in the abstract.
2. (pg 6) "at risk for CVD" was used instead of "high CVD risk."
3. (pg 11) Values for lipid endpoints and a discussion of food record data were included in the results section.
4. (pg 13) A more complete comparison of oat β -glucan to drug therapies was included in the discussion section. The effects of oat β -glucan as an add-on treatment to drug therapy was beyond the scope of this study.

Reviewer 2- Kenneth J Mukamal

1. The term "dietary fiber" was replaced with "soluble dietary fiber" where appropriate. A discussion of the terms "viscous" and "fermentable" with respect to dietary fiber was included. We feel that "viscous" and "fermentable" better characterize the functions of dietary fiber. We used the term "viscous" to replace "soluble" where appropriate.
2. The triglyceride value of the supplemented group was not different than 0; however the triglyceride value of the placebo group decreased significantly. This was discussed in greater detail.
3. The aim of this study was to determine if concentrated oat β -glucan had an effect on cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic adults. "Hypercholesterolemic" was added to the abstract and methods section to clarify the characteristics of our subject pool. Fifteen subjects were excluded from the study because they did not present hypercholesterolemia at their screening visit (total cholesterol > 200 mg/dL).

We hope that you find our revisions satisfactory and look forward to publishing in your journal.

Sincerely,

Maria Stewart

Joanne Slavin
University of Minnesota