Erratum

Erratum to "Methodology of an International Study of People with Multiple Sclerosis Recruited through Web 2.0 Platforms: Demographics, Lifestyle, and Disease Characteristics"

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The authors would like to make a number of corrections. During reidentification of data to allow a scheduled email to participants, a coding anomaly was detected, such that the identification and filtering out of duplicates had been incorrectly undertaken. This meant that some participants were incorrectly removed from the dataset prior to analysis while some duplicate entries had been included in analysis. Many minor changes to the results in the published paper have occurred as a result of this error. The authors apologise for any inconvenience caused.

In the abstract, on the sixth line, the figure 2519 should be changed to 2469.

Figure 1 and Tables 3–10 were updated as provided.

There were also corrections to the Section 3 on page 5

– In the first paragraph,

 (i) the first sentence beginning with "A total of 3053 participants" should now read: "Following the removal of duplicate records, a total of 2996 participants;"

 (ii) 2519 should be changed to 2469;

 (iii) 2518 should be changed to 2468;

 (iv) 89% should be changed to 90.4%;

– In the second paragraph,

 (i) 82.2% should be changed to 82.3%;

 (ii) 46 should be changed to 45;

 (iii) 38 should be changed to 37;

 (iv) 88% should be changed to 87.8%;

 (v) 61.1% should be changed to 60.6%;

 (vi) 23.4% should be changed to 23.2%;

 (vii) 64.0% should be changed to 39.0%.

 – In the third paragraph,

 (i) 13 should be changed to 12;

 (ii) 45.0% should be changed to 45.4%;

 (iii) 61.0% should be changed to 61.7%;

 (iv) 76.7% should be changed to 77.1%.

 – In the fourth paragraph, 31.7% should be changed to 32.3%.

 – In the fifth paragraph
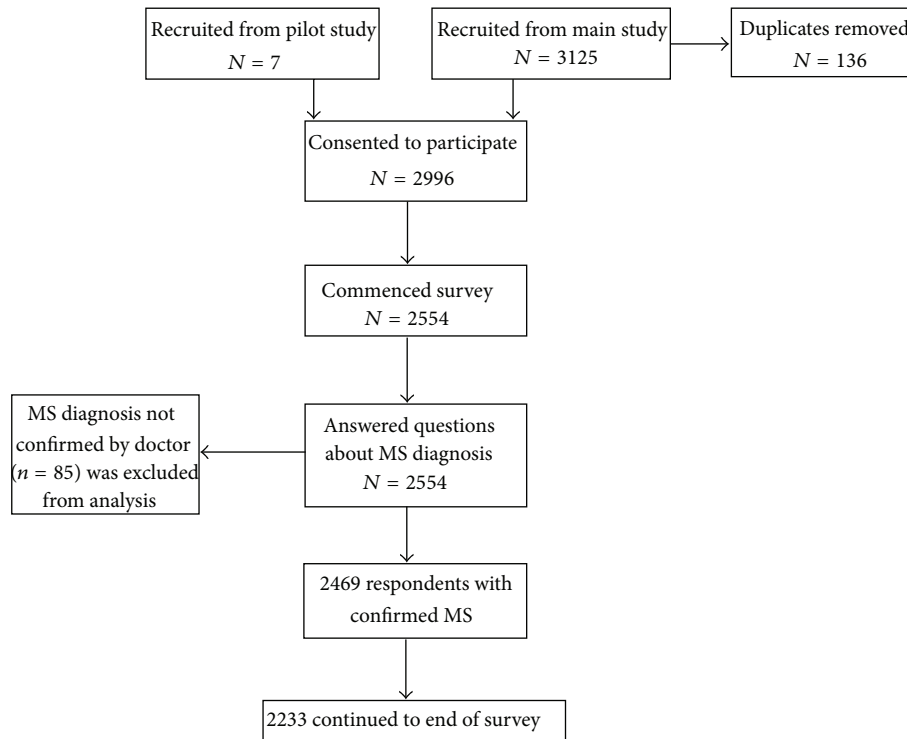
 (i) 0.97 should be changed to 0.98;

FIGURE 1: Participant study inclusion criteria.

(ii) 1382 should be changed to 1372;

(iii) 42.0% should be changed to 42.1%;

(iv) 31.0% should be changed to 30.8%;

(v) 27.0% should be changed to 27.2%.

– In the sixth paragraph,

(i) 81.65 should be changed to 81.7;

(ii) 59.2 should be changed to 59.1;

(iii) 42.3 should be changed to 42.5;

(iv) 77.2 should be changed to 77.4;

(v) 72.0 should be changed to 72.1;

(vi) 51.2 should be changed to 51.1.

Corrections to the Section 3 on page 6
  – In the first paragraph,

(i) 65.7% should be changed to 65.6%;

(ii) 63.7 should be changed to 63.5;

(iii) 67.7 should be changed to 67.6.

– In the second paragraph,

(i) 68.4% should be changed to 67.2%;

(ii) 51.4% should be changed to 50.1%.

Corrections to the Section 3 on page 7
  – In the first paragraph,

(i) 59.5% should be changed to 59.7%;

(ii) 38.0% should be changed to 37.8%;

(iii) 21.5% should be changed to 21.4%;

(iv) 67.0% should be changed to 66.8%;

(v) 82.3% should be changed to 82.4%;

(vi) 64.3% should be changed to 64.2%;

(vii) 676 should be changed to 675;

(viii) 30.0% should be changed to 30.1%.

TABLE 3: Characteristics of the study sample.

Characteristics	Number (%) (unless otherwise stated)
Gender	
Male	407/2303 (17.7)
Female	1896/2303 (82.3)
Age in 2012 (years)	
18–29	128/2398 (5.3)
30–39	619/2398 (25.8)
40–49	779/2398 (32.5)
50–59	634/2398 (26.4)
60–69	222/2398 (9.3)
>70	16/2398 (0.7)
Country of location	
USA	807/2469 (32.7)
Australia	629/2469 (25.5)
UK	417/2469 (16.9)
NZ	210/2469 (8.5)
Canada	105/2469 (4.3)
Other*	301/2469 (12.2)
Country of birth	
USA	772/2461 (31.4)
Australia	508/2461 (20.6)
UK	492/2461 (20.0)
NZ	172/2461 (7.0)
Canada	106/2461 (4.3)
Other†	411/2461 (16.7)
Marital status	
Married	1472/2431 (60.6)
Single	359/2431 (14.8)
Cohabitating/partnered	316/2431 (13.0)
Separated/divorced	257/2431 (10.6)
Widowed	27/2431 (1.1)
Family status	
No children	766/2431 (31.5)
One or more biological children	1599/2431 (65.8)
One or more stepchildren	236/2431 (9.7)
Number of children^, median (IQR)	2 (0–2)
Employment status	
Employed full time	800/2459 (32.5)
Employed part time	524/2459 (21.3)
Stay at home parent/carer	184/2459 (7.5)
Student full time	60/2459 (2.4)
Unemployed‡	196/2459 (8.0)
Retired due to age	72/2459 (2.9)
Retired due to medical reasons or disability	570/2459 (23.2)
Other	53/2459 (2.2)

TABLE 3: Continued.

Characteristics	Number (%) (unless otherwise stated)
Education status	
No formal schooling	3/2455 (0.1)
Primary school	52/2455 (2.1)
Secondary school	549/2455 (22.4)
Vocational training	395/2455 (16.1)
Bachelor's degree	888/2455 (36.2)
Postgraduate degree	568/2455 (23.1)

*Including 52 other countries.
†Including 72 other countries.
^Including biological children and stepchildren.
‡Collapsed from the unemployed: seeking work/not seeking work.

TABLE 4: Diagnostic characteristics and level of disability.

	Number (%)
Number of years since diagnosis	
<1–5	1098/2420 (45.4)
6–10	568/2420 (23.5)
11–15	383/2420 (15.8)
16–20	182/2420 (7.5)
21–25	96/2420 (4.0)
26–30	47/2420 (1.9)
>30	46/2420 (1.9)
Disability (PDDS)	
Normal	744/2300 (32.3)
Mild disability	351/2300 (15.3)
Moderate disability	172/2300 (7.5)
Gait disability	365/2300 (15.9)
Early cane	253/2300 (11.0)
Late cane	175/2300 (7.6)
Bilateral support	138/2300 (6.0)
Wheelchair/scooter	99/2300 (4.3)
Bedridden	3/2300 (0.1)
Currently experiencing symptoms due to a recent relapse*	
Yes	639/2394 (26.7)
No	1431/2394 (59.8)
Unsure	324/2394 (13.5)

*Definition of relapse provided to participants.

TABLE 5: Diagnosed subtype of MS.

	Benign	Relapsing and remitting	Primary progressive	Secondary progressive	Progressive relapsing	Unsure/other
Type of MS first diagnosed, number (%)	99/2418 (4.1)	1864/2418 (77.1)	151/2418 (6.2)	43/2418 (1.8)	14/2418 (0.6)	247/2418 (10.2)
Type of MS currently diagnosed, number (%)	100/2421 (4.1)	1493/2421 (61.7)	175/2421 (7.2)	275/2421 (11.4)	48/2421 (2.0)	330/2421 (13.6)

TABLE 6: Relapse rate for relapsing-remitting participants.

	Self-diagnosed relapse rate			Doctor-diagnosed relapse rate		
	n	Mean (95% CI)	Median (IQR)	n	Mean (95% CI)	Median (IQR)
Number of relapses over the last 12 months[*]	1469/1493	1.09 (1.01–1.17)	1 (0.0–2.0)	1452/1493	0.73 (0.67–0.78)	0 (0.0–1.0)
Number of relapses over the last 5 years, annualised[*]	1401/1493	0.98 (0.93–1.03)	0.67 (0.4–1.2)	1388/1493	0.66 (0.62–0.70)	0.5 (0.2–1.0)

[*]Participants with relapsing-remitting MS.

TABLE 7: MSQOL summary scores.

Summary score	n (missing)	Distribution (Kolmogorov)	Mean (95% CI)	Median (IQR)
Overall quality of life subscore	2259 (210)	0.00	66.9 (66.1–67.7)	68.4 (55.0–81.7)
Physical health composite	1937 (532)	0.00	59.2 (58.2–60.1)	59.1 (42.5–77.4)
Mental health composite	2210 (259)	0.00	66.7 (65.8–67.6)	72.1 (51.1–84.1)

TABLE 8: Depression and fatigue screening.

	Cutoff	Positive, number (%, 95% CI)	Negative, number (%, 95% CI)
Depression screen (PHQ-2)	Negative < 3; positive ≥ 3	429/2225 (19.3, 17.7–21.0)	1796/2225 (80.7, 79.0–82.3)
Fatigue (FSS) mean score	Negative < 4; positive ≥ 4	1402/2138 (65.6, 63.5–67.6)	736/2138 (34.4, 32.4–36.5)

TABLE 9: Comparison of data with NARCOMS and MSBase registries.

	HOLISM	NARCOMS [22]	MSBase [45]
Female (%)	82.3	74.9	71.5
Age at diagnosis (years)	37.0 (median)	36.9 (mean)	32.2 (mean)
Age at symptom onset (years)	31.0 (median)	32.4 (mean)	Data not provided
Age at enrolment (years)	45.0 (median)	42.8 (mean)	42.7 (mean)
Disease duration at enrolment (years)	6.0 (median)	Data not provided	10.4 (mean)

TABLE 10: Country of residence.

Country	n
Armenia	1
Australia	629
Austria	2
Belgium	5
Brazil	7
Bulgaria	1
Canada	105
China	1
Croatia	7
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	2
Denmark	10
Estonia	2
Finland	4
France	11
Gibraltar	2
Guam	1
Germany	29
Greece	12
Iceland	2
India	3
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Ireland	36
Israel	2
Italy	6
Kuwait	1
Lebanon	1
Luxembourg	1
Malta	2
Mexico	3
Namibia	1
The Netherlands	27
New Zealand	210
Norway	13
Philippines	2
Poland	3
Portugal	6
Puerto Rico	3
Qatar	1
Romania	4
Russian Federation	2
Saudi Arabia	2
Serbia	2
Singapore	2
Slovakia	4
Slovenia	2
South Africa	30
Spain	9

TABLE 10: Continued.

Country	n
Sweden	16
Switzerland	8
Syria	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Turkey	1
United Arab Emirates	4
United Kingdom	417
United States	807