Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased expression of NF-AT4 and NF-AT3 in the atria correlates with procollagen I carboxyl terminal peptide and TGF-beta1 levels in serum of patients with atrial fibrillation

Authors:

Fei Zhao (feidragon7804@aliyun.com)
ShiJiang Zhang (zhsj_wh@hotmail.com)
YiJiang Chen (feidragon780419@aliyun.com)
WeiDong Gu (guweidong@sina.com)
BuQing Ni (nibuqing@163.com)
YongFeng Shao (shaoyongfeng6708@aliyun.com)

Version: 4
Date: 12 August 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

I would like to submit the manuscript entitled “Increased expression of NF-AT4 and NF-AT3 in the atria correlates with procollagen I carboxyl terminal peptide and TGF-β1 levels in serum of patients with atrial fibrillation” to be published in the *BMC CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS*.

The main objective of this work is to determine whether the expression and distribution of transcription factors NF-AT3 and NF-AT4 correlate with atrial fibrosis of atrial fibrillation (AF) or the serum markers for collagen I and III synthesis associated with valvular heart disease (VHD). The obtained results indicate NF-AT3 and NF-AT4 mRNA and protein expression were increased in the AF groups, especially in the left atrium. Nuclear NF-AT3 and NF-AT4 correlates with atrial fibrosis, PICP, and TGF-β1 in the blood of AF patients.

I certify that all authors have read and approved the manuscript and there is no potential conflict of interest. The results/data/figures in this manuscript have not been published elsewhere, nor are they under consideration (from all of Contributing Authors) by another publisher while being considered by the journal *BMC CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS*.

This manuscript may be interesting to *BMC CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS* readers. It would be very kind, if you could consider this manuscript to be published in *BMC*.
CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS. We are willing to pay the excess page fees.

I am very appreciated by your kindness. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

YongFeng Shao

Corresponding author

E-mail address: shaoyongfeng6708@aliyn.com