Title: Molecular Typing and Characterization of Nasal Carriage and Community-Onset Infection Methicillin-Susceptible Staphylococcus aureus Isolates in Two Taiwan Medical Centers

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Re: MS: 1282884450745576 Molecular Typing and Characterization of Nasal Carriage and Community-Onset Infection Methicillin-Susceptible Staphylococcus aureus Isolates in Two Taiwan Medical Centers

We would like to resubmit the above named manuscript MS: 1282884450745576 for publication in your prestigious journal after making changes of the formatting of the manuscript. All authors thank the editor’s help to improve the manuscript format and have agreed to the submitted version of the manuscript.

The changes we made are:

1. In page 11, we addressed the ethics statement with IRB approval number and informed consent.
2. The authors’ contributions were present in page 22.

We believe that the paper has made the following contributions:

1) This is the first attempt to identify the characteristics and clonality of Methicillin-Susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) in Taiwan.

2) Compared to the lineages of MRSA in previous studies, MSSA lineages is more heterogenous. Most MSSA were of different genetic background to MRSA in Taiwan. However, the only common ST type of MSSA and MRSA in Taiwan is ST59 which is the representative community-associated MRSA clone. It suggests that MRSA probably originated from MSSA clones through the transfer of SCmec.

3) We have identified that the majorities of community MSSA infections were caused by a few lineages and had distinct characteristics (a lower prevalence
rate of egc, tst and hlg genes, being more common to be susceptible to erythromycin, with faster growth rates) from nasal carriage isolates in the community.

Looking forward to your kind reply

Yours sincerely,

Po-Liang Lu M.D. Ph.D.