Author's response to reviews

Title: Altered Serum microRNAs as Biomarkers for the Early Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Infection

Authors:

Yuhua Qi (njyhqi@126.com)
Lunbiao Cui (lbcui@njmu.edu.cn)
Yiyue Ge (geyiyue@163.com)
Zhiyang Shi (shizhiyang@hotmail.com)
Kangchen Zhao (zhaokangchen@126.com)
Xiling Guo (guoxiling@hotmail.com)
Dandan Yang (yangdandan@126.com)
Hao Yu (yuhao@126.com)
Lan Cui (cuilan@126.com)
Yunfeng Shan (shanyunfeng@hotmail.com)
Hua Wang (wanghua@hotmail.com)
Zuhong Lu (zhlu@seu.edu.cn)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

November 25, 2012

Dr. Tonilynn Manibo
Editor of BMC Infectious Diseases

RE: MS: 5661312477185642

“Altered Serum microRNAs as Biomarkers for the Early Diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Infection”

Dear Dr. Manibo,

Thank you very much for processing our manuscript and provide us an opportunity again to improve our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers' suggestions, and the amendments are highlighted in red in the revision. We also responded point by point to the comments as listed below.

Thank you again for your consideration. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Yuhua Qi
State Key Lab of Bioelectronics
Southeast University
Nanjing, 210096, China

&: Key Laboratories of Enteric Pathogenic Microbiology,
Ministry of Health
Jiangsu Center for Disease Prevention and Control
Nanjing, 210009, China
Tel: +86-25-83759424
Fax: +86-25-83759424
E-mail:njyhqi@126.com

Enclosures
Response to reviewers:

REVIEWER 1:

Comments:

A major criticism is the use of controls from other respiratory infections not matched for age. Pediatric population have a different miRNAs baseline.

I would strongly suggest to include adult patients with other respiratory infection or to include some pediatric TB patients

Reply: Thanks for reviewer’s comments. Unfortunately, we haven’t collected samples from adult patients with other respiratory infection or samples from pediatric TB patients. After analyzing the expression levels of three miRNAs (miR-361-5p, miR-889, and miR-576-3p) between 65 adult controls and healthy children controls (20 male and 18 female; median age, 3.2±1.8 years), we didn’t find significant difference between two control groups (see the following Figure). The data indicated that it’s comparable using pediatric patients with respiratory infections as control, although it is not matched for age. We added this information in the revision (page 14-15, line 302-304). We will collect more samples with different forms of TB and analyze their serum miRNA expression profiles in our further work.