Author's response to reviews

Title: Thrombocytopenia in the experimental leptospirosis of guinea pig is not related to disseminated intravascular coagulation

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Version: 2  Date: 28 September 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Dennison,

Thank you very much for your e-mail of 07 Sep 2005 and the referees’ comments. Based on your comment and request, we have made extensive modification on the original manuscript. Here, we attached revised manuscript in the formats of MS word, for your approval. A document answering every question from the referees was also summarized and enclosed. I hope this will make it more acceptable for publication.

Minor Essential Revisions

Comment 1: The manuscript should be edited by someone fluent in English. There are many typographical errors and problems with capitalization and spacing throughout the manuscript. These items should be caught by someone more familiar with English.
Response: Yes, The spelling and syntax errors have been checked and corrected. The manuscript has been reworded including the title.

Comment 2: In the abstract, the term intraabdominal was used instead of intraperitoneal.
Response: Yes, this has been revised in our manuscript.

Comment 3: In the second page of the abstract, the authors note detection of spiral forms in tissue, but fail to note the organ from which the tissue
was obtained. The description of other observed pathological changes that follow in the abstract are also not clearly associated with a specific organ.  
**Response:** The organs associated with pathological changes have been clearly added into the paper.

Comment 4: In the introduction, the authors begin to list the pathogenic *Leptospira* species, and then end the sentence with etc. As this is presented, all the pathogenic species should be listed.  
**Response:** Yes, all the ten pathogenic species according to the reference 1 and 2 were all listed in the revisional manuscript.

Comment 5: At the end of the results portion of the abstract, there are apparently contradictory statements. This section first states that D-dimer and FDPs increased statistically then state that they elevated slightly. More precision is needed.  
**Response:** Yes, this has been revised in our manuscript; the contradictory statements have been cut off in the revisional manuscript. D-dimer and FDPs increased statistically is the correct statement.

Comment 6: At many places throughout the manuscript, important references are not cited. Very little detail is given in certain sections of the methods that need more information.  
**Response:** The references in the revisional manuscript have been reorganized. Ten new references have been added to our manuscript. More detailed information in the hemotology sections of the methods has been added.

If you have any questions, please contact us without hesitate.  
With best wishes,
Yours Sincerely

Xiao-Kui GUO

09/28/2005