Author's response to reviews

Title: Vaccination with Hemagglutinin or Neuraminidase DNA Protects BALB/c Mice against Influenza Virus Infection in Presence of Maternal Antibody

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr Lulu da-Silva:

Thank you very much for your suggestion about our manuscript (MS: 1114972933114657).

According to the suggestion, we have added at the end of the Discussion section the following paragraph concerning the use of the fluorescent N1 assay:

¿In this study the NA antibody titers were determined by fluorescent-based NI assay with the substrate 2¿-(4-methylumbeliferyl)-¿-D-N-acetylneuraminic acid (4-MU). We notice there is a report showing that the assay may be unreliable and lack standardization compared with the fetuin-based assay [31]. However, we don¿t think it make a big difference to draw valid conclusions in this study. Although the derived antibody titer may not be accurate because of the limitation of the NI assay, it would not influence the general changing tendency of all the antibody titers and thus would not influence the conclusions. Moreover, our conclusions are based on other factors, which we think are more important, such as survival rate and residual lung virus titer of mice, etc. The NA antibody titer determined by fluorescent-based NI assay would be further confirmed by fetuin-based assay in our future studies.¿

We think the revision is appropriate and hope you would be satisfied with it. We would be grateful if the paper could be accepted soon.

Thank you again for your time and your work.

Sincerely yours,

Ze Chen M.D., Ph.D., Professor