Author's response to reviews

Title: Adjuvant TACE inhibitor treatment improves the outcome of TLR2/- mice with experimental pneumococcal meningitis

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Answer to reviewer **Annamaria AV Vezzani**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
None

**Minor Essential Revisions**

**Comment Nr.1:**

*Please add in the text the justification reported in the rebuttal letter for choosing not to treat the DKO mice with TACE inhibitor. This explanation will help the reader to readily understand the rationale for the choice of treatments.*

**Answer:**

The choice for not treating DKO mice with TACE inhibitor (TNF484) was justified in the text (Results section, p.11).

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**Comment Nr.2**

*The paper(s) were the method and score used for measurements of motor activity and general health of mice has been validated needs to be referenced in the text. If this is reported in ref 7 than this will suffice.*

**Answer:**

The method has been validated by the coauthor Stephen Leib in pneumococcal meningitis model (*Leib et al., Brain 2001*). This method is referenced in the text (Materials and Methods section, p.6).