Author's response to reviews

Title: Sequencing of NOTCH1, GATA5, TGFBR1 AND TGFBR2 genes in familial cases of Bicuspid Aortic Valve

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editors of “BMC Medical Genetics”

Re: MS: 1086602316838228

Title: Sequencing of NOTCH1, GATA5, TGFBR1 and TGFBR2 genes in familial cases of Bicuspid Aortic Valve

Dear Editors,

we are grateful to Reviewers for useful and constructive suggestions. In the new version we tried to resolve the last issues raised by reviewers and answer accordingly. The manuscript has been edited for grammar and wording by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise.

We hope that the revised manuscript adequately addressed all criticisms.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. IleniaFoffa
**Reviewer 1: Kim McBride**

Reviewer's report:

My major concerns have been addressed.

The paper requires further editing for errors, clarity, and language. For example, in the results of the abstract, the mutations are a missense and a nonsense, and None pathogenic should be No pathogenic. In the results of the main paper I am assuming instrumental analysis means echocardiography? If so, please use that term. Variants should be consistently described correctly, such as p.P284L (note the p.).

Author's Reply:

As suggest by the reviewer, the paper has been edited for errors, clarity, and language. The specific errors highlighted by the reviewer have been corrected in the last version of the paper and written in blood red.

Results section needs to be shortened. The findings are in the Tables so they do not need to be repeated in the text. Please proof read the paper carefully as there are other errors.

Author's Reply:

The result section has been shortened according to reviewer’s suggestion.

Focus the discussion only on the NOTCH1 findings since the GATA5, TGFBR1 &2 are known polymorphisms.

Author’s Reply:

As suggest by the reviewer, the discussion has been focused on the NOTCH1 gene.

The manuscript should be edited for English grammar and wording.

Author’s Reply:

As suggest by the reviewer, the whole paper has been revised and corrected by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise. Accordingly, we specifically thanks Ms. Allison Frank in the final acknowledgments of the paper.

**Reviewer 2: Shohreh Malek**

Reviewer's report:

I think the authors have addressed my comments and I am satisfied with their answers.
Author’s Reply:

We thank this reviewer for the comment.

Reviewer 3: Gregor Andelfinger

Reviewer's report:

Some responses to the review were provided, improving the overall quality of the paper.

Author’s Reply:

We thank this reviewer for his comment. As suggest in the “Quality of written English” the manuscript has been revised and corrected by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise. Accordingly, we specifically thanks Ms. Allison Frank in the final acknowledgments of the paper.