Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identification of novel biomarker candidates by proteomic analysis of cerebrospinal fluid from patients with moyamoya disease using SELDI-TOF-MS

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
October 15, 2010

Dear Professor Erwin Stolz:

Please find enclosed the revised version of our manuscript (MS: 1548332595400712) entitled “Identification of novel biomarker candidates by proteomic analysis of cerebrospinal fluid from patients with moyamoya disease using SELDI-TOF-MS”.

We would like to thank you and the reviewers again for the helpful comments regarding our manuscript. We have addressed all the comments and hope that our explanations and revisions are satisfactory. Our responses to reviewers are enclosed and all corresponding parts are highlighted in red in the manuscript.

We hope that this second revised version of our manuscript is now suitable for publication in BMC Neurology.

Yours sincerely,

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Response to the reviewers

Reviewer: Peter Berlit

Thank you for your useful suggestion which have helped us to improve our manuscript. As indicated in the response that follows, we have taken this suggestion into account in the second revised version of our manuscript.

Comment #1
Still, some further shortening of the manuscript should be possible.
Response
In accordance with the reviewer’s suggestion, we have shortened substantially by removing some information not essential to the main thrust of the Discussion section. Also we have deleted some references. We believe that it now meets your length requirements.

Reviewer: William CS Cho

Thank you for your comments and constructive suggestions. As indicated in the responses that follow, we have taken all these comments and suggestions into account in the revised version of our manuscript.

Comment #1
Actually the paper is already translated into English of the paper in “Cho WC. Research progress in SELDI-TOF-MS and its clinical applications. Chin J Biotech(Sheng Wu Gong Cheng Xue Bao) 2006, 22:871-876” being published by Elsevier via ScienceDirect with the same journal and page number.
Response
Please accept our deepest apology for our weak recognition regarding the paper. We have cited the paper in the revised manuscript.

Comment #2
Response
According to the comment, we have added all the three references into the revised manuscript.

Comment #3
As agreed from the authors that the sample size for the experiments is small. For the concern of proteomics work, is there any validation cohort of samples?
Response
Actually we do not have enough samples yet to construct independent test data set for ensuring the training data set which we have examined in this study. This point is important; therefore we would like to continue efforts to collect samples for validation analysis of our proteomic work.

Comment #4
Similarly, for the inferred proteins related to MMD pathophysiology were found at ExPASy protein database. Are there any validation work being conducted?
Response
Since the inferred proteins related to MMD pathophysiology were found at ExPASy protein database, we have tried to identify the proteins using various proteomic methodology e.g. electrophoresis, LC-MS/MS, however, we could not achieve successful results at the moment. Therefore, we do like to continue validation work at this point.