Author's response to reviews

**Title:** ErbB3 mRNA leukocyte levels as a biomarker for Major Depressive Disorder

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Prof. Shusuke Numata,

Thank you very much for your kind letter and for having give us the opportunity to present a revised version of our manuscript. We have carefully considered the reviewer’s comment and changed the manuscript accordingly. All corrections were written in the manuscript in bold.

Once again we would like to thank you and the reviewers for their suggestions that have allowed us to improve the quality of our manuscript. We hope that the manuscript can be now suitable for publication.

Your sincerely

Massimo Gennarelli

Responses to reviewers:

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Minor Essential Revisions

1) Although they wrote that target genes mRNA levels have been normalized on the arithmetic mean of B2M, Cyc1, and Atpb5, there are no comments and no data for these normalized probes (In results, which internal control data was shown?). They should show the data or wrote the comments (ex. we also confirmed the Q-PCR data by normalizing other internal controls, Cyc1 and Atpb5), if so.

We have included a supplementary table showing ErbB3 mRNA levels normalized on the each Housekeeping Genes (CYC1, B2M, ATPB5) (Methods section page 10 lines 14-15). As you can see the difference between MDD patients and controls is confirmed for each normalization.