Author's response to reviews

Title: Functional activation of proline-rich tyrosine kinase2 (PYK2) in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus

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Object: MS: 1131451551273331- Functional activation of proline-rich tyrosine kinase2 (PYK2) in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus. Dr Meiying Wang et al.

Thanks for your consideration of our manuscript. We have studied their comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with their approval.

1) The issue of lymphocytopenia needs to be resolved in some way. If the authors have actually looked in their patients and find >90% lymphocytes, this is a good starting point, but needs to be reported in the paper. Further experiments have been done at the referee’s suggestion, and we confirmed that the purity of human lymphocytes isolated by Ficoll–Paque gradient centrifugation was >90% as tested with anti-CD3 mAb and anti-CD19 mAb by flow cytometry. We have reported it in the paper by red words (page 8, paragraph 5).

2) While activated T lymphocyte may be more common, this is a dangerous argument given the published knowledge on lymphocytopenia. A discussion of their findings in the light of the literature is warranted.
As suggested by referees, a discussion of the argument about the lymphocyte proliferation and lymphocytopenia has been included in red words (page 17, paragraph 7). The additional references have been included (page 24, paragraph 3)

**Minor 4) I am not of the opinion that correct statistics are irrelevant.**
Thank you for giving us a good advice on statistical methods. Following the suggestion of the referees, we have corrected statistical methods (page 11, paragraph 14)