Author's response to reviews

Title: Electroacupuncture decreased cognitive impairment and promotes neurogenesis in the APP/PS1 transgenic mice

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Rowles,

Thank you very much for your email to inform us that our manuscript (2228748569968404) could be considered for publication in *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* after reviewing our major revision. We also appreciate the reviewers for their hard working, thoughtful comments and valuable suggestion. These suggestion and questions are not only very helpful for improving our manuscript, but also very instructive for our future study. We responded point by point to both comments from the reviewer as below and the change in the manuscript was marked in **RED**.

We sincerely hope that after the revision, our manuscript would be acceptable. If you need any further information, please contact with us without hesitation. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you again for your hard work and warm support.

Responses to the Reviewer’s Comments

First of all, we would like to thank the one reviewer for his/her positive comments on our last version of manuscript.

Reviewer: 1

1. The rationale for using Baihui acupoint in this study needs to be elucidated clearly in the manuscript. The animal without acupuncture treatment cannot serve as an appropriate control for identifying the specificity of this acupoint. With this respect, a sham-acupuncture considered as a control is necessary for this study.

   **Response:** Thank you for your helpful suggestion. We agreed with you that the rationale for using Baihui acupoint should be elucidated in the manuscript. Therefore, we have added more information in
Moreover, we totally agree with you it is more appropriate that a sham-acupuncture should be considered as a control. However, in the current paper, we aimed to focus proving that EA owned the possibility for improving cognitive dysfunction rather than pointing out the specificity of the acupoint. Hopefully we could further explore this area in our future study. Nevertheless, we added the current limitation of our paper in the Discussion section and some other paper supporting the using of the Baihui acupoint. And we apologize for the limitation.

2. The length of scale bars in Figs 3 and 5 should be indicated.

Response: Thank you for pointing out our flaw. We have added the length of scale bars in Fig 3 and Fig 5. We apologize for our neglect from our last version.

3. In Figure 4, Panel C, the bands demonstrating Aβ 1-42 were questionable when “Con+EA” was compared to “Con”. This concern really needs to be solved using appropriate bands, i.e., the original data.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion. We totally agree with you and we have solved this problem by re-done the experiment and change the band we offered in the paper. Hopefully the changed figure could meet your expectations.