Author's response to reviews

Title: Human MMP28 expression is unresponsive to inflammatory stimuli and does not correlate to the grade of intervertebral disc degeneration

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Independent Editorial Production Team

The following changes have been made to the manuscript

Marina Klawitter, Lilian Quero, Alessandro Bertolo, Marco Mehr, Jivko Stoyanov, Andreas Nerlich, Juergen Klasen, Nikolaus Aebli, Norbert Boos and Karin Wuertz

*Human MMP28 expression is unresponsive to inflammatory stimuli and does not correlate to the grade of intervertebral disc degeneration*

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1. List of authors has been altered (first name, initial, last name)
2. A competing interests section has been added
3. References have been put to the end of the sentence (few exceptions in cases where the meaning would have been wrong if reference was at the end of the sentence)
4. Tables are included in the manuscript, with titles and legend above/below (respectively)
5. All highlights are removed
6. Abbreviations are in paragraph form
7. Author contributions are in paragraph form
8. Figures do not contain figure numbers anymore and are cropped

Sincerely

[Signature]