Author's response to reviews

Title: The Effects of apoptosis vulnerability markers on the myocardium in depression after myocardial infarction

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Version: 6 Date: 27 November 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Sabina Alam
Editor-in-Chief of Journal of BMC Medicine

Dear Sabina

Many thanks for your assistance. The following responses to reviewer 3's comments have now been addressed.

**Answer questions:**

Reviewer:
Dr Lucia Carboni comments:

I think that the reference to the Mallei's paper should be removed as non relevant, and that the cut-off values used to include an animal in the depression group should be reported.

We have removed Mallei's paper and added the new Reference (25) in the Methods, pg6, line 11, and Reference 25, pg 23, highlighted in red, for splitting animals into depressed and non-depressed groups based on open field and sucrose preference tests.

**Need Abbreviation section:**

Abbreviation section has been added before the competing interests and authors' contributions. Pg19, line 1-6, highlighted in red.

We added “National Natural Science Foundation of China. Project Grant: 31260237” in the Acknowledgements, pg 20, line 7-8, highlighted in red.

Yours sincerely
Michael Berk  cont’d…

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