Author's response to reviews

Title: Sodium vanadate combined with L-ascorbic acid delays disease progression, enhances motor performance, and ameliorates muscle atrophy and weakness in mice with spinal muscular atrophy

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

Enclosed please find our revised manuscript (MS: 9610239758122127). We thank the editor and reviewers for their constructive and insightful comments. In response to their concerns, we have made some corrections and additions. In addition, we have added the description of SMN copy number in cells from type II SMA patients to the Materials and Methods section and have corrected the name of motor function assay in response to the reviewer’s comments. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers’ suggestions, and our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments are below.

Sadly, the reviewer is correct in that Dr. Hung Li tragically passed away in 2009. We have noted this in the Acknowledgements.

We hope that you will find the manuscript suitable for publication in BMC Medicine. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Our point-by-point replies to the reviewers are below.

Referee #2: (Dr. Matthew E.R. Butchbach)

Minor comments:

1. **What is the SMN2 copy number of the HDFs isolated from a type II SMA patient?**
   
   We thank the reviewer for pointing out this omission and have included the description in the “Materials and Methods” section (page 8, line 5-6) in our revised manuscript and now it reads ” A dermal biopsy obtained from a patient with type II SMA (39-year-old female with 3 copies of SMN2) was acquired from National Taiwan University Hospital”

2. **The “right reflection” assay is generally referred to as the “surface righting” response/assay**
   
   We thank the reviewer for pointing out our error. We have corrected the name on page 11, line 4; page 22, line 5 and page 53, line 7.