Author's response to reviews

Title: PEP-1-SOD1 fusion proteins block cardiac fibroblast activation and angiotensin II-induced collagen production

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

We thank you for allowing us to revise the manuscript again. We have added new data for Fig 2A and changed the fibroblasts to myofibroblasts as suggested. We hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publishing in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

The point-by-point responses to Editor’s comments are as follows:

**Concern #1:** “Reviewer #1 recommends that the cells here referred to as myofibroblasts throughout the paper. The authors have responded to it that the untreated cells have not become the fibroblasts since they did not express collagen I. However, according to the Figure 5, they already produced collagens. Therefore, authors should reconsider the reviewer’s recommendation.”

**Response:** We have changed the “fibroblasts” to “myofibroblasts” throughout the manuscript by following the Editor and reviewer’s recommendation.

**Concern #2:** “In the concern #5 of Reviewer #2, the authors have changed the figure 2A quality, but it remains unclear in the revised manuscript. Therefore, they should perform the staining again or add the counter stain according to the Reviewer.”

**Response:** We have performed the staining again and added the counter staining images according to the reviewer’s suggestion for Figure 2A.