Author’s response to reviews

Title: Investigating the physiology of normothermic ex vivo heart perfusion in an isolated slaughterhouse porcine model used for device testing and training

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Madamba and Dr. Gray,

We would like to thank you for your time to review this manuscript. We are pleased to hear that the manuscript is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Cardiovascular Disorders.

We have added a table with for each point raised by the editor on the following pages.
Kind regards,

Benjamin Kappler

1) Please revise the Competing interests statement so that it addresses all forms of support provided by LifeTec Group B.V. Support may include but is not limited to: professional laboratory services, provision of grants, provision of materials, etc. Note that this is a standard requirement, with no implications of impropriety on your part.

The statement has been revised and states the following:

“B. Kappler worked with LifeTecGroup B.V. before his employment as PhD researcher at the department of Cardiothoracic Surgery of the Academic Medical Center at the University of Amsterdam. S. van Tuijl. is an employee of the LifeTec Group B.V. M. Stijnen and B.A.J.M. de Mol are founders of LifeTec Group BV and are respectively Head of Medtech Innovation and director of Medical Affairs. Professor B.A.J.M. de Mol was chief of the department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Amsterdam University Medical Center. LifeTec Group B.V. developed the PhysioHeart™ platform and has the proprietary rights. LifeTecGroup BV supported this study with professional laboratory services and provision of materials.”

2) In your Funding section, please also state the role of the funding body in the design of the study; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; and in writing the manuscript.

Now, the section specifically states the financial funding.

“This project has received financial funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska Curie grant agreement No 642612. Bastiaan J. Boukens received financial funding from the Dutch Heart Foundation (2016T047).”

3) In the point-by-point response letter, please state whether the images used in Fig. 12 are freely available to use (i.e. not under copyright), or if the images are under copyright but you have obtained permission to use them.

Figure 12 has been designed by the author and is not under copyright.