Author's response to reviews

Title: Protective effects of heme oxygenase-1 against severe acute pancreatitis via inhibition of tumor necrosis factor-α and augmentation of interleukin-10

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Editor Comments:

Your manuscript "Protective Effects of Heme Oxygenase-1 Expression Against Severe Acute Pancreatitis: Inhibition of Tumor Necrosis Factor-α and Augmentation of Interleukin-10" (BMGE-D-17-00023R2) has been assessed by our reviewers. Based on these reports, and my own assessment as Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology, once you have carried out some minor editorial revisions:

1. We notice significant text overlap between your manuscript and previously published materials. Please find attached a file containing the iThenticate report for your manuscript. This highlights sections of text which overlap with previous publications. Please reformulate the large sections of highlighted text present in your manuscript, especially in the Background and Discussion sections. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate.

Response: Dear editor, thanks for your comment. We would like to express our sincere apologies to have so many overlapped descriptions in our manuscript, and we also really appreciate that you give us the opportunity to make explanation and revise. We have provided the explanations in the following paragraph and the revised parts have been modified in the original.
We would like to emphasize that this work is novel and different from previous work and literature reports, which has been demonstrated by the positive comments from peer-reviewers. We also believed it has significant scientific impacts to be published in BMC Gastroenterology. Some overlap parts is the same as paper “Protective effect of adenoviral transfer of heme oxygenase-1 gene on rats with severe acute pancreatitis. Am J Med Sci. 2014;348(3):224-31.” This is because the first author is the same person. I (Feihu Zhang) got my master's degree from Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine and done some research on pancreatitis at Ruijin hospital. So far, I am still doing some research on pancreatitis, and overlap research methods is inevitable.

2. In your Methods section, please indicate how the mice used in your study were sacrificed.

Response: Thanks for your comment. All animal experiments were conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Shandong Committee on Animal Care of China which approved the study protocol. All rats were housed in a temperature controlled (25±1°C) room under a 12-hour light/12-hour dark cycle with free access to drinking water and chow diet. Rats were anesthetized with sodium pentobarbital (40 mg/kg, intraperitoneally) and sacrificed 24 hours after SAP establishment.

3. In the Ethics approval section, please clarify your statement by indicating whether the study protocol itself was approved by the ethics committee. Please also include the committee reference number if appropriate.

Response: Thanks for your comment. All animal experiments were conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Shandong Committee on Animal Care of China which approved the study protocol. Approval Number: SCXK(LU)20140007.

4. Please note that the Consent for publication statement refers to consent obtained to include any individual person’s data in any form (including individual details, images or videos). Therefore, please state "Not applicable” in this section as no personal information is provided in your manuscript.

Response: Thanks for your comment. The language has been modified in the original.

5. Please remove the figure files that include only the individual slides of each figure. The first three figures that include all parts are uploaded correctly.

Response: Thanks for your comment. This mistake has been modified in the original.

6. Upon uploading your revisions, please remove any tracked changes or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript.

Response: Thanks for your comment. It`s has been modified in the original.