Dear Editor,

MANUSCRIPT NO. INFD-D-17-00417: RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS AND SUBMISSION OF THE CORRECTED VERSION

1. Comment:

1. Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants or from parents/legal guardians on behalf of patients aged 16+ and clearly state this in your manuscript. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation within the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section of the Declarations.

=> Response:
Thank you. No consent was required from any patient since we worked on archived bacteria; the ethical approval was obtained for working on these isolates since they were of clinical source. We confirm that in line 399.
2. Comment:

We notice that the current link and code in the “Availability of data and materials” section does not lead directly to your dataset. Please provide an alternative link to your dataset or amend the privacy on Research Data Deposit, if possible. Alternatively, please amend this section to “The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request”

=>Response:

Thank you. We have chosen the suggested alternative way for data availability and stated it in line 405-406.

3. Comment:

We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of MAM, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship.

=>Response:

Thank you. The contribution was clarified in line 418.

☐ Comment:

An ‘author’ is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have: a) made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; AND b) been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND c) given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; AND d) agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Anyone listed as an author must be included in this section. If you choose to change your author list you will need to fill out a change in authorship form and send it by email to the Editorial office to be approved by the Editor. The form can be found here: https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#authorship. Anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship can be acknowledged in the ‘Acknowledgements’ section.

=>Response:

Thank you. Authors declared that they considered these rules during working on this article.

4. Comment
Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

=>Response:

Thank you. Done, please refer to line 420-421

5. Comment:

Please provide email addresses for all the authors on the title page.

=>Response:

Thank you. Done

6. Comment:

In order to adhere to submission guideline, please rename the section heading ‘Introduction’ to ‘Background’, and ‘Methodology’ to ‘Methods’ in the main text.

=>Response:

Thank you. Done

7. Comment:

The role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript should be declared in Funding.

=>Response:

Thank you. Done in lines 414-416

The authors hope that all responses will satisfactorily meet the expectation of the reviewers and the editorial board.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,