Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pleural IFN-γ release assay combined with biomarkers distinguished effectively tuberculosis from malignant pleural effusion

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Zhang,

Your manuscript "Pleural IFN-γ release assay combined with biomarkers distinguished effectively tuberculosis from malignant pleural effusion" (INFD-D-18-01612R1) 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 Infectious Diseases, once you have carried out some essential revisions.

The reports, together with any other comments, are below.
1. Title page

Please include email addresses of all co-authors on the title page to ensure it in line with journal requirements.

Response: We have listed the email addresses of all authors on the title page.

2. Conclusions

Please also include a ‘Conclusions’ section in the main text after the Discussion according to our editorial policy https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

This should state clearly the main conclusions and provide an explanation of the importance and relevance of the study reported.

Response: We have supplemented a “Conclusions” section in the revision after the Discussion (line 315-321, Page 11), which provides brief summary and potential implications of this study.

3. Ethics approval and consent to participate

In this section please also specify whether consent to participate was given verbally or in written format. If verbal consent was used please provide a reason why verbal consent to participate was used rather than written consent.

Response: The individual written informed consent was obtained from each participant as indicated by line 361-364 (Page 12) in the revision.

4. Funding

Thank you for providing a funding section. Please state whether the funding body had any role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript in this section.

Response: The funding body played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript. See the line 346-348 (page 11-12) in the revision.

5. Authors’ contributions

Please note that based on the current authors’ contributions section, YL and GZ do not automatically qualify for authorship. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, writing of the
manuscript or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

We ask that you ensure that author contributions are in line with the ICMJE guidelines (below), and that all listed authors have performed all four points specified below:

A. Made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;

B. Been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content;

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.

Please provide more information on individual author contributions and ensure author contributions listed in the authors’ contribution section are reflective of ICMJE guidelines.

Please also ensure that all authors have read and approve of the final version and add a statement confirming this.

Response: All author’s contribution was stated in line 354-359 (page 12) according to ICMJE guidelines, all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

6. Section heading

Please insert the section heading ‘Declarations’ to your manuscript before the ‘Acknowledgements’.

Response: ‘Declarations’ was inserted in the revision as indicated in line 335 on page 11.

7. List of abbreviations

As many abbreviations are used throughout the paper, we ask that you include a list of abbreviations (before the Declarations section) for reference and ease of reading. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Response: A list of abbreviations was inserted before the Declaration section (line 323-333, page 11).
8. Clean copy

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

Response: The clean copy of revision was uploaded.

Please also take a moment to check our website at https://infd.editorialmanager.com/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments.

If you are able to fully address these points, we would encourage you to submit a revised manuscript to BMC Infectious Diseases.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at: https://infd.editorialmanager.com/

If you have forgotten your password, please use the 'Send Login Details' link on the login page at https://infd.editorialmanager.com/. For security reasons, your password will be reset.

We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.

Response: A point-by-point response letter was provided to describe the amendments in the revision.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 11 Jan 2019.

Please note that you will not be able to add, remove, or change the order of authors once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication. Any proposed changes to the authorship must be requested during peer-review, and adhere to our criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's policies. To request a change in authorship, please download the 'Request for change in authorship form' which can be found here http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship. Please note that incomplete forms will be rejected. Your request will be taken into consideration by the editor, and you will be advised whether any changes will be permitted. Please be aware that we may investigate, or
ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorized attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Jing Zhang on behalf of

Oliver Cocks
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