Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genetic variants in Forkhead box O1 associated with predisposition to sepsis in a Chinese Han population

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you again for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Genetic variants in Forkhead box O1 associated with predisposition to sepsis in a Chinese Han population” (ID: INFD-D-18-02255R1). The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as following:

Responds to Editor Comments:

1) It came to our attention that you have included Dr Lixin Xie and Dr Zhaohui Tong as corresponding authors. Please take note that only one corresponding author is allowed and we kindly ask you to amend this section.

Answer: We have amended Dr Zhaohui Tong as co-first author.

2) Please add the heading “Conclusion” to the manuscript body.

Answer: We have added the heading “conclusion” to the manuscript body.

3) After the list of abbreviations, please add the heading "Declarations" followed by the following mandatory sub-headings:
- Ethics approval and consent to participate
- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements

4) Please include the statement “All sepsis patients and normal controls provided written informed consent. This study was also approved by the Committee on Ethics of the Chinese PLA General Hospital (ID: 20111013–009)” in the “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section.

5) Please rename “Funding Information” to Funding. Under the heading "Funding", please declare the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

6) Please rename “Author contribution statement” to Authors' Contributions. Please use initials to refer to each author's contribution in this section.

7) Please rename "Declarations of interest" in "Competing Interest".

8) Please move Figure legends after the Reference.

9) Please provide "Availability of data and materials" statement.

10) Please provide "Acknowledgements".

11) Please provide "Abbreviations".

Answer: We have revised our manuscript according to the above suggestions. Thank you.

Responds to Evangelos Giamarellos-Bourboulis (Reviewer 2): The manuscript is much improved. However, the answer to my question on the lack of association between genotypes and FOXO1 levels was not satisfactory (also from the linguistic point-of-view). I suggest that this is added as a limitation in the Discussion.

Answer : Thank you very much. We have added this limitation in the discussion section.