Author’s response to reviews

Title: Meta-analysis of associations of vascular endothelial growth factor protein levels and -634G/C polymorphism with systemic lupus erythematous susceptibility

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Version: 3 Date: 06 Mar 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Response to the reviewers

Dear Anne Menard, M.D., MPH and reviewers,

We are hereby submitting our revised manuscript entitled “Meta-analysis of associations of vascular endothelial growth factor protein levels and -634G/C polymorphism with systemic lupus erythematous susceptibility” (Manuscript ID: MGTC-D-18-00492R2). In the past several days, all of the authors participated in revising this manuscript. We have fully addressed the comments of the reviewers. We hereby provide our point-by-point responses to all of the concerns as detailed below.

Editor Comments:

1. Please ensure that the corresponding author is the same within your manuscript and the submission system. Currently this is not the case and must be corrected before publication.

Response: We have checked it and it is right. Thank you very much!

2. Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated.

Response: We have added them in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much!
3. Please rename:

Introduction to Background

Materials and Methods to Methods

Response: We have added them in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much!

4. Please add a “Conclusions” section after the “Discussion” section. This should state clearly the main conclusions of the research article and give a clear explanation of their importance and relevance.

Response: We have added it in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much!

5. Please provide the heading "Declarations " for the corresponding section.

Response: We have added them in the revised manuscript. Thank you very much!

6. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Response: We have added them in the revised manuscript (The role of the funding body supported the publication fee for this manuscript). Thank you very much!

7. Thank you for providing your response to reviewers. However, at this stage it is not required and so we kindly ask that you remove it from your manuscript.

Response: Thank you very much!

8. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response: We have uploaded them according to your requirement. Thank you very much!

Sincerely yours,

Wenzhuang Tang, et al.