Dear Editors-in-Chief,

Re: Manuscript ID BNEP-D-19-00663R2

We are very much thankful to the reviewers for the deep and thorough review. Your comments were highly insightful and enabled us to greatly improve the quality of our manuscript.

The manuscript had been revised extensively, addressing all of the issues raised by the editors and reviewers. In the following pages are our point-by-point responses to each of the reviewer’s comments.
Comment 1. Textual overlap

We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:


This overlap mainly exists in the abstract, Discussion (past paragraph).

AND


“https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-01818-w?code=b93659f1-09f8-4c21-91c3-07dc0faa96e0&amp;error=cookies_not_supported”

This overlap mainly exists in the Discussion.

Please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work, an abundance of overlap may preclude a given paper from publication. Please carefully re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Response: Thanks for your comments. We had re-phrased these sections to minimize overlap.

Comment 2. Section headings

Please rename the section heading ‘Introduction’ to ‘Background’, ‘Materials and Methods’ to ‘Methods’ in the main text of this manuscript.

Response: Thanks for your comment. We had renamed the section headings.
Comment 3. Copyedit

Please improve English in the Conclusions section as well as throughout the main text and some other grammatical errors. We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service.

Response: Thanks for your comment. We had revised our English writing by a native English speaker.

Comment 4. Acknowledgements

Please include an Acknowledgements subsection in the Declarations in order to be in line with journal requirements. Please only use this section to acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the article who does not meet the criteria for authorship including anyone who provided professional writing services or materials.

Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements section. If no acknowledgements are necessary then please state 'None'.

Response: Thanks for your comment. We included an Acknowledgements subsection in the Declarations.

Again, we appreciate all your insightful comments. We worked hard to responsive to them. We hope that these revisions improve the manuscript such that you and reviewers now deem it worthy of publication in BMC nephrology.