Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cytokine profiling reveals increased serum inflammatory cytokines in idiopathic choroidal neovascularization

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Prof. Branch-Hollis, Prof. Lennikov and reviewers:

Re: Manuscript BOPH-D-19-00087R2, Authors: Shenchao Guo; Houfa Yin; Mingjie Zheng; Yizhen Tang; Bing Lu; Xinyi Chen; Qiuli Fu; Zhenwei Qin; Danni Lyu; Qiaomei Tang; Lifang Zhang; Jian Ma; Li Zhang; Xiaoyun Fang, M.D. “Cytokine profiling reveals increased serum inflammatory cytokines in idiopathic choroidal neovascularization”.

Sincerest thanks for your response and comments on our above manuscript. Those comments and suggestions are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. The manuscript has been carefully revised according to your suggestions which we hope meet with your approval. The responds to the editors’ comments are listed below this letter.

I hope the revised version of the manuscript meets the requirements of your journal for publication. However, if you have more comments and questions or need more information, please don’t hesitate to contact us, and we will be happy to revise the manuscript again. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

With best regards

Sincerely yours,

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Responds to the editors’ comments are as follows:

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

This overlap mainly exists in the Methods and Discussion sections.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the aforementioned section of your paper to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant, these sources are also referenced as appropriate.

If this study uses methodology from a previously published work, please provide a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper.

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. Your comments are very helpful for revising and improving our manuscript. We have revised relevant paragraphs (Line 86-98, page 4-5; Line 159-161, page 8).

2. In the section 'Funding', please also describe 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: Thank you very much for your comments. Your rigorous attitude to scientific research is appreciated. We have revised relevant paragraphs (Line 243-245, page 12).

3. Please represent authors' names using their full initials, NOT their full name or partial initials, in the Authors’ Contributions section. If there are any duplicated initials, please differentiate them to make it clear that the initials refer to separate authors.

Response: Thank you very much for your comments. Your rigorous attitude to scientific research is appreciated. We have revised relevant paragraphs (Line 247-250, page 12).

4. 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: Thank you very much for your comments. Your rigorous attitude to scientific research is appreciated. We have revised the manuscript according to the suggestions.

Technical commentary: If applicable, please provide the number of the ethical protocol at line 228 “The study protocol…”.

Response: Thank you very much for your suggestions. Your rigorous attitude to scientific research is appreciated. We are sorry that we did not have the number of the ethical protocol in this case-control study.