Author’s response to reviews

Title: Plasma levels of alarmin HNPs 1-3 associate with lung dysfunction after cardiac surgery in children

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you very much for your letter and the comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Plasma levels of alarmin HNPs 1-3 associate with lung dysfunction after cardiac surgery in children” (ID: PULM-D-17-00128R2). Those comments are very valuable and helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have read the comments carefully and have made revisions which were marked in red in the new version of the manuscript. The main corrections in the paper and the response to the reviewers’ comments are as follows:

Response to the reviewers’ comments:

Matt Zinter (Reviewer 1): This is a significantly improved revision of the original manuscript. The methods are more appropriately described and the inclusion of all variables assessed in the multivariable model is an important addition. The data are presented clearly and conclusions are
not overdrawn. The discussion is robust and includes reference to both basic and clinical studies. There are still a few grammatical errors to correct but otherwise this study merits publication.

Response: Yes. We thank the reviewer for giving the valuable suggestion. According to the reviewer’s comment, we have asked an editor from an English medical journal to have a fine editing with attention to diction and syntax. We marked the changes in red in the new version of the manuscript. (Page 3 Line 47, 48, 52, 53, 58, 59; Page 4 line 67, 68; Page 5 line 99; Page 6 line 112, 113, 115, 116, 123; Page 7 line 143, 144; Page 8 line 159, 160, 165, 174, 175; Page 10 line 199; Page 11 line 222, 223, 228; Page 17 line 362, 376)

Amelia Moreira (Reviewer 2): Dear authors, Thank you for your revised article. Just 2 minor corrections:

Line 353: please delete the phrase "Fortunately, previous studies demonstrated that plasma and BALF α-defensins levels were not influenced by gender and smoking habit".

Line 364: please replace "could acted" for "could act".

Response: Yes. We have done it according the reviewer’s comments. The revisions were marked in red in the manuscript. (Page 17 line 353, 362)

We had read the Editorial Policies and made great efforts to adhere our manuscript to the editorial requirements. If there is still some errors, we will revise it again.

In addition, to improve to the English language within our manuscript, we had asked the “American Journal Experts (http://bit.ly/AJE_BS)” for help with English usage before we submitted our manuscript first time.