Author’s response to reviews

Title: MST-4 and TRAF-6 expression in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells of patients with Graves' disease and its significance

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response Letter

Dear editors,

We deeply appreciate the time and effort you’ve spent sending the email dated February 03, 2017. We also thank the reviewers’ assessment. We have carefully revised the manuscript titled “MST-4 and TRAF-6 expression in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells of patients with Graves' disease and its significance” (BEND-D-16-00205R1) as requested. We hope that the revised manuscript is acceptable for publication.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ai Guo, Chun Liu

Comment 1: We notice the ethics statements in your Methods section and in the Declarations section do not match: one states the study was approved by your IRB, while the other states the IRB waived the need for ethics approval. Please clarify whether ethics approval was obtained or waived by the IRB and correct your manuscript statements accordingly.

Reply: we apologize for not noticing the ethics statements in our Methods section and in the Declarations section do not match. In fact, our study was approved by the First Affiliated
Hospital of Chongqing Medical University Ethical Committee (2016-87). In the Methods section of the revised manuscript (Methods, Study subjects, second paragraph, lines 1-4, page 4), we revise the sentences as follows: “The study was approved by the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University Ethical Committee. All participants were provided informed consent when being enrolled and fully explained the purpose and procedures of the study. Informed consent was obtained from all participants.”

Comment 2: Please provide a statement on whether consent to participate was obtained from all participants in the Ethics and consent to participate section of the Declarations

Reply: we have already added a statement about informed consent to participants in the Ethics and consent to participate section of the Declarations. The statement as follows: In the ethics statements of the Methods section: “The study was approved by the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University Ethical Committee. All participants were provided informed consent when being enrolled and fully explained the purpose and procedures of the study. Informed consent was obtained from all participants.” In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section of the Declarations: “The study was approved by the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University Ethical Committee (2016-87). Informed consent was obtained from all participants.”

Comment 3: Please upload all figures as separate figure files and do not include two different figures within the same file. Please note, however, that all figure titles/legends should be placed at the end of the main manuscript, after the References, and not within any of the figure files. Please remove the figure legends from within the figure files and place them in a section titled "Figure legends", placed after the References

Reply: Thank you for this reminder. We apologize for not uploading the figures correctly. We have revised and placed the section titled "Figure legends" after the References. Specific content is as follows: Figure legends: Fig. 1 Expression of MST-4 mRNA in PBMCs * Compared with the normal group; Fig. 2 Expression of TRAF-6 mRNA in PBMCs * Compared with the normal group; Fig. 3 Expression of MST-4 and TRAF-6 protein, as detected using Western blotting; Fig. 4 Expression of MST-4 protein in PBMCs * Compared with the normal group; Fig. 5 Expression of TRAF-6 protein in PBMCs * Compared with the normal group.

Comment 4: Please remove the additional files, as these should not be published along with your manuscript

Reply: Thank you so much for telling us to remove the additional files, we have removed it as required.