Author’s response to reviews

Title: Whole transcriptome analysis reveals differential gene expression profile reflecting macrophage polarization in response to influenza A H5N1 virus infection

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We thank again the editor and reviewer for the comments and suggestions. Please kindly find our point-by-point responses as below.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours faithfully,

Si Lok and Suki Lee

Editor’s Comments:

(1) We note that the current submission contains some textual overlap with other previously published works, in particular:
"Direct identification and quantification of host and viral miRNAs after influenza infection using the next generation ultra-high throughput DNA sequencer" (2015) Hong Kong Med J

And


This overlap mainly exists in the Background and Methods sections.

While we understand that this is work that you have previously published, and some of the same ideas are contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please re-phrase these sections to minimise overlap.

Authors’ response (1): We thank the editor for the comment. The whole manuscript has been revised again, particularly the Background and Methods sections. We have already re-phrased them to minimize the overlapping with our previous publications. Please kindly refer to the Background section (line 63-97, page 4-5) and Methods section (line 99-196, page 6-11) in the revised manuscript.

(2) Please include all of the information in your email dated 8th September in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section with regards to the virus strains and the blood from the donors. This is for transparency and to aid in the reproducibility of your study.

Authors’ response (2): We thank the editor for the comment. Information about ethics approval and consent with regards to virus strains as well as blood from donors have now been included in the Declarations section (under Ethics approval and consent to participate, line 500-509, page 28) in the revised manuscript.

(3) 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.

Authors’ response (3): “Conclusions” section has been added in the revised manuscript, please refer to the Conclusions section (line 460-471, page 26).

(4) Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Authors’ response (4): “Abbreviations” section has been added in the revised manuscript, please refer to the List of abbreviations (line 475-497, page 27-28).
(5) Please note that all manuscripts must contain all the following sections under the heading 'Declarations'. The Declarations should follow the Conclusions section, and be before the References.

Abbreviations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Consent for publication

Availability of data and material

Competing interests

Funding

Authors' contributions

Acknowledgements

Please see here for details on the information to be included in these sections:

https://bmcmedgenomics.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

If the information required is already provided in the main manuscript, please also copy the relevant statements to the Declarations.

If any of the sections are not relevant to your manuscript, please include the heading and write 'Not applicable' for that section.

Authors’ response (5): “Declarations” with all necessary sections have been added in the revised manuscript, please refer to (line 499-527, page 28-29).

(6) Please clarify if the initials SL in the Authors' Contributions refer to Si Lok. We ask for clarifications in this matter as the author's name is written Lok Si in Editorial Manager and Si Lok in the manuscript. Please clarify and amend which way the author's name should be written.

Authors’ response (6): The author’s name is Si LOK and corresponding amendment has already been made in the Editorial Manager.

(7) 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.
Authors’ response (7): The clean versions of manuscript as well as all the relevant tables/figures/additional files have been submitted.

Reviewer’s comments

Ok Sarah Shin (Reviewer 1): The authors have satisfied most of the issues raised by the reviewers.
Authors’ response: We thank the reviewer again for all the comments and suggestions.