Author’s response to reviews

Title: Identification of biomarkers and drug repurposing candidates based on an immune-, inflammation- and membranous glomerulonephritis-associated triplets network for membranous glomerulonephritis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Executive Editors of the BMC Medical Genomics Issue

RE: Submission of the revised version of the manuscript (MGNM-D-19-00208) titled “Identification of biomarkers and drug repurposing candidates based on an immune-, inflammation- and membranous glomerulonephritis-associated triplets network for membranous glomerulonephritis” by Zhang et al.

Dear Editor(s) at BMC Medical Genomics:

Thank you for your editorial efforts regarding our manuscript and for your offer to accept a suitably revised version. In addition, we thank the referees for their constructive comments. We have introduced changes to strengthen the manuscript by responding to the points and concerns raised by the referees. In particular, we have made the following major revisions:

(1) We accept the referee’s suggestion and have added a supplementary table about detailed scores for each dysregulated IIMATs of MGN.
(2) We accept the referee’s suggestion and revise the conclusions of abstract.
(3) We accept the referee’s suggestion and add some detailed information about the method of combined scores.

Our point-by-point responses to the referees’ comments and revisions are given below. Any changed text in the revised manuscript and responses to referees has been marked in RED. The revised manuscript and our responses to the referees have been reviewed by several professionals and a commercial copyediting service (AJE Editing Services, certificate Verification Number: F442-A99B-C02D-F4AC-27EE), to avoid any potential academic or grammatical errors.

We believe that the manuscript to be greatly strengthened by the critique of the referees and hope that you will now find it acceptable for publication. Again, we thank you and the referees for your careful review and helpful comments on our work.
Respectfully yours,

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Reply to Reviewer 1
Kinsuk Chauhan (Reviewer 1): Authors have satisfactorily answered all the concerns.
REPLY: We sincerely appreciate the referee’s positive suggestion.
Few more minor concerns are below:
1) Baseline table should be comparing characteristics between cases and controls. Also, separate each characteristic by separate rows (for example, male and female separately for cases vs. controls)
REPLY: We sincerely appreciate the referee’s constructive suggestion. Expression profiles of MGN patients and control samples are download from public database. However, this previous study didn’t provide clinical information of control samples. Thus we have to only show baseline characteristics for MGN patients in Table S2. In order to ensure that readers can get more detailed information about samples, we also have revised the manuscript as follows:
Other detailed information could be found in a previous study and public database GEO.
2) Based on comment 5, provide more details on combining Q values, add few lines for the readers to understand. Is it Q statistics from reference 20?
REPLY: We sincerely appreciate the referee’s suggestion. The combined scores are calculated based on reference 20. We add some lines about this approach in revised manuscript. In addition, we also add the combined scores of each dysregulated IMMATs in Table S3. The manuscript has been revised as follows:
Combined scores of each IMMAT was calculated using an equally weighted method based on above two integrated scores [20]. This multidimensional rank method could integrate two independent scores to a last ranking score.
3) Please provide the scores generated for each patient in two equations ScorePCC and Scoredif as a supplementary table.
REPLY: We sincerely appreciate the referee’s suggestion. We have added a supplementary table 3 about ScorePCC and Scoredif for each patient. We have revised the manuscript as follows:
The detailed scores and P-values of permutation were listed in Table S3.
4) Conclusion in the abstract is very wage. Please write more specific and relevant findings to the result.
REPLY: We sincerely appreciate the referee’s useful suggestion. In addition, we have revised the manuscript as follows:
The present study explored the associations among immune, inflammation and MGN. Some effective candidate drugs for MGN were identified based on immune and inflammation.

Lastly, we sincerely appreciate the referee’s efforts for this manuscript.