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Dear Editors,

We respectfully submit our article entitled, “Dissection and Downstream Analysis of Zebra Finch Embryos at Early Stages of Development “ for publication in JoVE. We feel that this information would provide a valuable addition to the literature. Several years ago when we were just entering the field of early avian embryology using the zebra finch model system, we found not guidelines on how to dissect the embryos from such small eggs. We had to work out this procedure from scratch. Within the past few years zebra finch has become a premier model system, particularly for language acquisition and toxicological studies. However there are few studies employing embryos from the early stages of development. The lack of an appropriate stage guideline as well as the absence of clear guidelines on how to obtain embryos from early stages has surely contributed to this. Our lab has now published a guideline for staging (Murray et al., J. Morph., 2013), and we wish to address the lack of a clear dissection protocol with this submission to JoVE. Obviously JoVE is the perfect venue for such a manuscript given that explanation of the technique is enhanced so much by visualization. Our group has worked with Rachelle Baker for past submission (now published) and we have been in touch with Dr. Kira Henderson as well. As requested, we have included author contributions and a list of six possible reviewers. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Margaret Saha

Professor of Biology

Author Contributions:

Murray, Jessica R: developed and implemented the dissection protocol; wrote initial draft of manuscript.

Stanciauskas, Monika E: assisted with implementation and refinement of the protocol; contributed to writing of manuscript.

Aralere, Tejas S: developed EdU protocol and wrote EdU section of manuscript.

Saha, Margaret Ph.D: PI of lab; provided funding; oversaw animal care; project development; reviewed and help write manuscript; oversaw all experiments.

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