Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the manuscript entitled “Chick heart invasion assay for testing the invasiveness of cancer cells and the activity of potentially anti-invasive compounds” for publication in the Journal of Visualized Experiments.

The assay is based on confronting organ cultures of embryonic chick heart fragments and aggregates of cancer cells. This implies a number of critical manipulations that are more easily explained by video demonstration than by static description. The assay was introduced by us in the late seventies, and has been applied since then in several other labs. Although short descriptions of the assay steps were published, successful implementation in those labs generally required a short visit and demonstration in our lab. We feel that publication in JoVE would greatly facilitate the dispostion of the assay to potentially interested users.

The contributions of the co-authors were as follows:

Marc Bracke: laboratory director, supervisor of the assay and author of the manuscript

Bart Roman, Christian Stevens, Liselot Mus and Virinder Parmar: long-term scientific users of the assay, who have improved the procedure and established structure-activity relations of anti-invasive compounds. They defined the robustness of the assay over the last 35 years (see manuscript).

Olivier De Wever: supervisor of different invasion assays in our laboratory, responsible for the performance comparisons between the assays.

Marc Mareel: author of the original publications of the chick heart invasion assay in our lab, and critical reader/revisor of the manuscript.

Nandita Singh was the JoVE editor who assisted me in the submission process.

Suggested reviewers of the manuscript are:

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Thank you for considering the publication of our manuscript in JoVE.

Sincerely yours

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