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**University at Buffalo. The Ira G. Ross Eye Institute  
VA Western New York Healthcare System**

Dr. Vineeta Bajaj, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientific Editor, *Journal of Visualized Experiments*

November 22, 2017

Dear Dr. Bajaj,

We are resubmitting the revised manuscript titled: “**Ultrahigh Resolution Mouse Optical Coherence Tomography to Aid Intraocular Injection in Retinal Gene Therapy Research**” for publication in *Journal of Visualized Experiments* (JoVE). The current identifier for the manuscript is: **JoVE55894R1**.

We would like to thank the editor and the reviewers for their careful review of our manuscript, and extensive responses provided. We appreciate the opportunity to make the necessary changes to our manuscript where deficiencies existed, allowing us to provide a better manuscript for publication. We believe that we have addressed all of the concerns of the editor and the two reviewers (which are detailed below with our responses). We would appreciate a rapid review of our revised manuscript.

**Response to the Editorial comments**

**Editorial comments:**

1. The ALA says that the article will be published as standard access, however, in the editorial manager, this manuscript is marked for open access. Please check and upload new ALA if needed.

We kept it as standard submission, so adjusted in the Editorial Manager, and the ALA letter is then correct.

2. Please upload better quality figures with focused images of uniform size and resolution (at least 300dpi).

All Figures in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 were again uploaded from the OCT machine as high resolution TIF files (> 300 dpi) and then imported into Adobe Illustrator for processing and notations. The appearance of the images is significantly improved.

3. Please mark scale bars in all the figures with the microscope and describe it in the figure legend.

Scale bars have been added where appropriate in all retinal imaging Figures and their legends.

4. Please answer all the specific comments marked in manuscript.

A response to each critique box in the MS (.DOC) file was made. Some text added was left in red font.

5. After all formatting, please ensure that the highlight remains 2.75 pages or less (hard cut limit) of the Protocol (including headings and spacing) that identifies the essential steps of the protocol for the video, i.e., the steps that should be visualized to tell the most cohesive story of the Protocol. Presently it is 3 pages.

The highlighted component is now 2.75 pages or less (without the notations). Critical parts of the protocol for video were maintained and others were left unhighlighted (e.g. preparing the animal).

We are looking to enhance Fig. 5E for better presentation of the 3D figure. We will send this to you as soon as we have it.

We have reason to believe that a strong conflict of interest exists for Albert S. Lewin, Ph.D. and William W. Hauswirth, Ph.D. (University of Florida at Gainesville) and G. Jane Farrar, Ph.D. and Peter Humphries, Ph.D. (Trinity College, Dublin) to be reviewers of this manuscript, and we respectfully request that they be **excluded** from all aspects of the review process. There are many scientists with the expertise to conduct a merit-based peer review our manuscript. We suggest the following reviewers: Eric A. Pierce, M.D., Ph.D. (Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School), Stephen H. Tsang, M.D., Ph.D. (Columbia Univ.), Shiming Chen, Ph.D. (Washington University), Deborah Farber, Ph.D. (Jules Stein, UCLA), and Tiansen Li, M.D. Ph.D. (National Eye Institute). Contact information for these investigators is listed below. These investigators are actively working in the field of molecular biology of retinal degenerations. We have not had prior collaborations with these investigators.

As the corresponding author it is important to disclose that I am an author of a patent on development and use of post-transcriptional gene silencing agents (US: 8,252,527). There is no licensing or other financial stream from this intellectual property at this time.

We need to have this article in press by no later than 12/31/2017.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,



Jack M. Sullivan, M.D., Ph.D.  
Professor of Ophthalmology, University at Buffalo  
Staff Physician Scientist, Veterans Administration Western New York Healthcare System

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