Dear Dr. Steindel,

We have responded with text editing to address the raised issues. Thanks for your careful reviews.

Kind regards,

Wei-Qi He

Soochow University

**Editorial comments:**

**1. Note that some edits have been made to correct some language errors and streamline the protocol. Please proofread to remove any other errors.**

Response: We have proofread the manuscript.

**2. Protocol, 1.6: What vacuum? Something like a normal laboratory line?**

Response: Yes. It is a laboratory line (pressure pump). We have added this information in the Table of Materials.

**3. Protocol, 3.2: Please describe what these clinical scores mean (severity? What exactly does, say, 'activity' mean?) or provide a reference.**

Response: We have added a reference.

**4. Protocol, 3.4: Why is anesthetization confirmed here, if this is a euthanasia step? Should that action be in 4.4 instead? Also, should ‘beard’ be ‘whisker’?**

Response: It should be in 4.4. We have amended this. Thanks.

**5. Protocol, 3.4/4.4: Why is the same amount of Avertin used for euthanasia and anesthesia?**

Response: We have modified the description after checking the amount of Avertin.

**6: Figure 2: Do the double stars in fact indicate what the single stars do? The legend has been edited as such.**

Response: We have corrected this error. Significant differences are indicated by \* (p < 0.05) and \*\* (p < 0.01), as compared with TER values of cells without TNF treatment.