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**Ref.: Submission of a manuscript entitled: "****Zika virus-specific T-cell response evaluation in the immune privilege organs of virus-infected and vaccine-inoculated** **Ifnar1-/- mice"**

Dear Dr. Jaydev Upponi,

I would like to thank you for the invitation and I also appreciate the opportunity to submit the our current work on the methods of Zika virus (ZIKV)-specific T-cell response evaluation in the immune privilege organs of virus-infected and vaccine-inoculated Ifnar1-/- mice. The recent outbreak of ZIKV has emerged as a global health concern. This virus can induce the infections of immune privilege organs, e.g. brain, testis, and lead to severe clinical outcomes. Though it was indicated that the T-cells could infiltrate into these tissues, the functions and characteristics of these tissue-infiltrated immune cells are still known. Thus, we established the protocols to evaluate the features of the antigen-specific T-cells in the spleen and also the immune privilege organs of the ZIKV-infected mice and the vaccine immunized mice. Our methods may be used to evaluate the functions of the virus-specific T-cells during the infection of the emerging viruses, such as Ebola virus and Zika virus, which can infect the immune privilege organs.

We believe our work would attract a broad spectrum of readership and fulfill the scope of your prestigious journal. We warrant that all authors have seen and approved the manuscript, contributed significantly to the work, and also that the manuscript has not been previously published nor is not being considered for publication elsewhere.

We hope you will make a favorable decision.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

All the best

Yours sincerely,

William J. Liu

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