Response to Editorial comments

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript entitled ‘Compound Prescription Xiaoyaosan Improves Depressive-Like Behaviors of Chronically Stressed Mice’ (JoVE58276). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. The comments were all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper and the important guiding significance of our research. We have carefully considered the comments and addressed all of your concerns, which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the comments are as flowing:

Changes to be made by the Author(s):

1. Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammar issues.

**Response:** We have studied comments carefully and have made correction. We hope it will meet with approval, and we will search for language polishing by a native speaker if the contents of our manuscript are suitable for publication.

2. Please obtain explicit copyright permission to reuse any figures from a previous publication. Explicit permission can be expressed in the form of a letter from the editor or a link to the editorial policy that allows re-prints. Please upload this information as a .doc or .docx file to your Editorial Manager account. The Figure must be cited appropriately in the Figure Legend, i.e. “This figure has been modified from [citation].”

**Response:** The missing citation has been added in the Figure Legend.

3. Figures: Please define SEM in the figure legend.

**Response:** We are very sorry for the mistake. The missing definition of SEM has been added into the revised manuscript.

4. Please provide an email address for each author.

**Response:** The missing email address for each author has been added into the revised manuscript.

5. Please rephrase the Short Abstract to clearly describe the protocol and its applications in complete sentences between 10-50 words: “Here, we present a protocol to …”

**Response:** The Short Abstract has been improved in the revised manuscript. We hope it would meet with approval.

6. Please revise the Long Abstract to focus on the method being presented rather than the results of a specific experiment. Include a statement about the purpose of the method. A more detailed overview of the method and a summary of its advantages, limitations, and applications is appropriate. Please focus on the general types of results acquired.

**Response:** The Long Abstract has been improved in the revised manuscript. We hope it would meet with approval.

7. Some information in the Introduction doesn’t appear to be broadly-supported (e.g., that xiaoyaosan “dispers[es] … stagnant liver-energy and nourish[es] blood”); please revise. **Response:** Thank you for pointing out this problem. The citation has been added into the revised manuscript.

8. Please remove all commercial language from your manuscript and use generic terms instead. All commercial products should be sufficiently referenced in the Table of Materials and Reagents.

For example: Tongrentang, Beijing Vital River of the Charles River Company, EthoVision, etc.

**Response:** It has been revised in the manuscript, thank you very much.

9. Please define all abbreviations before use.

**Response:** Theabbreviations have been defined in the revised manuscript.

10. Please ensure that all text in the protocol section is written in the imperative tense as if telling someone how to do the technique (e.g., “Do this,” “Ensure that,” etc.). The actions should be described in the imperative tense in complete sentences wherever possible. Avoid usage of phrases such as “could be,” “should be,” and “would be” throughout the Protocol. Any text that cannot be written in the imperative tense may be added as a “Note.”

**Response:** The manuscript has been improved, we hope it meets with approval, thank you very much.

11. In the JoVE Protocol format, “Notes” should be concise and used sparingly. They should only be used to provide extraneous details, optional steps, or recommendations that are not critical to a step. Any text that provides details about how to perform a particular step should either be included in the step itself or added as a sub-step. Please consider moving some of the notes about the protocol to the discussion section (e.g. lines 171-178).

**Response:** It has been revised in the manuscript.

12. 2.1: Please provide the dimension for the cage.

**Response:** It has been added in the JoVE Materials file, thank you very much.

13. 4.1: Please describe how to prepare the suspension of Xiaoyaosan and fluoxetine.

**Response:** It has been improved in the manuscript.

14. 6.1: How is the video-tracking system set up, i.e., where is it positioned, on the top or from the side?

**Response:** It has been improved in the manuscript.

15. Please revise to explain the Representative Results in the context of the technique you have described, e.g., how do these results show the technique, suggestions about how to analyze the outcome, etc.

**Response:** It has been revised in the manuscript, thank you very much.

16. As we are a methods journal, please revise the Discussion to explicitly cover the following in detail in 3-6 paragraphs with citations:

a. Critical steps within the protocol

b. Any modifications and troubleshooting of the technique

c. Any limitations of the technique

d. The significance with respect to existing methods

e. Any future applications of the technique

**Response:** It has been improved in the manuscript.

17. References: Please do not abbreviate journal titles.

**Response:** It has been revised in the manuscript, thank you very much.