Response to Editorial comments

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript entitled ‘Evaluating the anti-depression effect of the Xiaoyaosan prescription on 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. 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. There are still numerous errors in grammar and usage; please revise, ideally by a fluent English speaker.

**Response:** Thanks for your valuable advice, we have revised the grammar and usage by a native speaker, and we hope our manuscript would be suitable for publication. Thanks again!

2. Title: This should reflect the protocol more as opposed to the results; e.g., “Evaluating the anti-depression effect of Xiaoyaosan on chronically-stressed mice”.

**Response:** Thanks for your comment, the title has been replaced to 'Evaluating the anti-depression effect of the Xiaoyaosan prescription on chronically-stressed mice' in the revised manuscript.

3. Introduction: Please tone down overly broad statements on the safety, efficacy, and physiological effects of Xiaoyaosan, and/or provide more citations.

**Response:** Thank you very much for this constructive comment. According to your suggestion, we have added citations [8, 9, and 10] in the Introduction section of the manuscript as the support for the effects of Xiaoyaosan.

4. Please rewrite much of the protocol in the imperative tense (e.g., “Keep mice individually in cages”. “Use distilled water”, etc.). Any text that cannot be written in the imperative should be a ‘note’.

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

5. 3.1: Please provide more detail or citations about how to carry out these stressors. Also, could you explicitly say what the seven stressors.

**Response:** The protocol has been improved in the manuscript, we hope it would meet with approval. Thank you!

6. 5.3: ‘The last day’ and ’48 h’ seem contradictory.

**Response:** Thank you for your careful work. This is a mistake and it is revised in the new manuscript.

7. Figure 2: The panels seem to be mislabeled in the legend.

**Response:** Thank you for pointing out this problem. It has been revised in the manuscript.

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This information has been uploaded to the Editorial Manager. Thank you for your thoughtful advice.

9. Discussion: This should be rewritten from the perspective of researchers wanting to replicate this protocol, including critical steps, troubleshooting measures, possible modifications, limitations, comparisons to other similar protocols, and future applications.

**Response:** Thank you very much for this constructive comment. According to your suggestion, this section has been improved in the revised manuscript.