September 6, 2018

Journal of Visualized Experiments  
1 Alewife Center, Suite 200

Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Dr. Phillip Steindel,

Re: JoVE58882 "Escherichia coli-based cell-free protein synthesis: protocols for a robust, flexible, and accessible platform technology".

We appreciate the thorough review of our manuscript and we thank you and the reviewers for providing insightful and constructive comments. Based on the reviewer comments, we have made several changes to the text and figures in the manuscript and conducted the additional experiments that the reviewers requested. We believe that the reviewer’s concerns are now directly addressed and that their suggestions have greatly improved the clarity and quality of the manuscript. We feel that our strengthened manuscript will make an essential and unique contribution *JoVE’s* broad readership. Specifically, as reviewer #1 has pointed out in their comments, cell-free protein synthesis has not been a traditionally accessible biotechnology for non-experts. Our improved manuscript combined with the visualization of the experimentation through *JoVE* will enable us to breakdown this barrier. Therefore, we believe that *JoVE* is the best outlet for maximizing the impact of this work as we aim to democratize the cell-free protein synthesis platform.

Below, we provide detailed responses and revisions to the manuscript on a point-by-point basis. We thank both you and the reviewers for your time and effort. We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,

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