**Editorial comments:**  
  
1. Section 2 of the protocol is somewhat confusing. For one, the references cited at the beginning of the protocol both mention excising the heart and lungs, while the protocol only mentions cutting out the heart-how exactly is that done?

**Reference 23 is nearly an identical procedure. When the removal of the lungs occurs is a detail of no importance in the operation of the retrograde perfused heart. Some like to use the lungs as reference points others do not. We remove the lungs at surgery. We have added a clarifying “Note” at 2.1.6. The original reference 24 was a dual chamber working rabbit heart and likely would be confusing however this approach is applicable to most heart perfusion protocols.**

Also, it seems like there’s a step missing-how exactly do you ‘lower the rate of the fluid’ in 2.2.1?

**This is now section 1.7 in the manuscript. It is now made clear that the rate of the fluid is adjusted with a tubing clamp.**

2. Sections 4 and 5: Can you provide the custom program you used in these sections (e.g., as a Supplemental Coding File)? **Yes we are downloading a compiled version of the acquisition and analysis programs (both are contained in a single program). We have constructed this with National Instruments Drivers that can be released in this format according to the National Instruments Labview license. Users will have to have a LabView license to run. Since the source code is very large we are only providing that if asked directly.**

3. Results, “Transmitted Light from the Rabbit Heart”: You mention a note in section 4.3, but there doesn’t seem to be a note there.

**That section was previously removed as the caption of figure 1A described the protocol used to acquire this spectrum. The mention of section 4.3 note is now removed from the results.**

4. Please include an Acknowledgements section, containing any acknowledgments and all funding sources for this work.

**This is a intramural program with no grants. We have added this to an Acknowledgement section along with a project number.**

5. Please include a Disclosures section, providing information regarding the authors’ competing financial interests or other conflicts of interest. If authors have no competing financial interests, then a statement indicating no competing financial interests must be included.

**A statement of no conflicts of interest is now included.**