**Replies to comments**

We thank the editor for the helpful comments. We followed the comments step by step and modified the manuscript accordingly, especially the protocol section. We updated the order of the figures, which is now different compared to the previous version of the manuscript.

All the edits in the manuscript are visible as we left the option “Track changes” active in the .docx document.

Please find our replies to the comments in blue.

Sincerely,

Alessandro Cresci

**Editorial comments:**

1. The editor has formatted the manuscript to match the journal's style, please retain the same.  
We retained the same format as the version of the manuscript provided by the editor.

2. Please address all the specific comments marked in the manuscript.  
We addressed every comment we found in the manuscript. In case the comments from the editor are no longer visible it is because we had to erase that specific part of text. However, all the edits applied to the manuscript follow the instructions provided by the comments of the editor.

3. The Protocol should contain only action items that direct the reader to do something. This can be in the form of discrete experimental steps, graphical user interface, the knob turns, button clicks, scripts if any, etc.  
The protocol now contains only short action items. All the additional information is provided in the introduction, the results or as NOTE.

4. Please ensure that all text in the protocol section is written in the imperative tense as if telling someone how to do your experiment (e.g., “Do this,” “Ensure that,” etc.) with all specific details. The actions should be described in the imperative tense in complete sentences wherever possible.  
All the action items are now in imperative form.

5. The Protocol should be made up almost entirely of discrete steps without large paragraphs of text between sections.  
We moved all the text between sections to the introduction, to the results or as a note.

6. Please ensure you answer the “how” question, i.e., how is the step performed?  
We now answer to “how” in almost every step.

7. Once done please ensure that the protocol is no more than 10 pages and highlighted step is no more than 2.75 pages including headings and spacing.  
The protocol is less than 10 pages and the highlighted text is 2 pages long.

8. Please format all units as g/ml and not g ml-1. Please change this for the figures as well.

We formatted all units accordingly.