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27th August

RE: JoVE61710R1

Dear Vineeta,

Thank you for the opportunity to further revise and improve our manuscript. We have adapted the text in response to your comments (see track changes). The one exception is that we have not included additional data to demonstrate representative results following the addition of the RNA extraction section to the protocol. Presentation of qPCR data on RNA extracted from gels would require a considerable number of additional steps beyond the RNA extraction itself and, to make any sense, we would have to provide considerable additional information about the experimental set up that would move a long way from the main purpose of the manuscript, to detail the method for making the hydrogels. We have added a comment in the text (lines 577-580) linking out to our recent publication which provides qPCR data on material extracted from the gels with all the additional information needed to put the results in context. We hope this is acceptable.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Merry".

Cathy Merry
Professor of Stem Cell Glycobiology