

Rebuttal Document: editorial comments

Dear editing staff,

Thank you for your time, intentionality, and due-diligence in your review and consideration of our manuscript. We appreciated your wise constructive comments and supportive suggestions that will surely strengthen the integrity and effectiveness of this publication. We enjoy any opportunity to learn from and collaborate with others that value the same curiosity that led us to this moment.

Please let us know if you have any additional comments and suggestions. We look forward to continuing this process with each of you, and thank you in advance for any more time you will contribute to this project. We have responded to each of your comments below!

Warmly,

Hannah Robert and Dr. Michael Folkerts

Comments:

- I. Please take this opportunity to thoroughly proofread the manuscript to ensure that there are no spelling or grammar issues. Please define all abbreviations at first use.
Addressed.
- II. Please provide an email address for each author. **Addressed: provided emails in parentheses next to each author's name in the 'Authors and Affiliations' section.**
- III. Lines 79, 83, 146, 157, 158: Please remove the title of the publication from the text and simply refer to the reference (e.g., has been described previously etc). Include the reference in the reference list. **Addressed: provided superscripts referring to the reference list/section.**
- IV. Consider shortening the introduction, making sure you cover:
 - A. A clear statement of the overall goal of this method **Addressed: increased emphasis on the aims of the study by including the term 'aims' in line 59.**
 - B. The rationale behind the development and/or use of this technique **Addressed: discussed in lines 108-120 in the 'Fundamental Definitions and Uses' subsection of the introduction.**
 - C. The advantages over alternative techniques with applicable references to previous studies **Addressed in the 'Alternative methods' subsection of the discussion.**

- D. A description of the context of the technique in the wider body of literature
Addressed: added to lines 108-120 in the 'Fundamental Definitions and Uses' subsection of the introduction.
 - E. Information to help readers to determine whether the method is appropriate for their application
Addressed: added to lines 108-120 in the 'Fundamental Definitions and Uses' subsection of the introduction.
- V. JoVE cannot publish manuscripts containing commercial language. This includes trademark symbols (™), registered symbols (®), and company names before an instrument or reagent. Please remove all commercial language from your manuscript and use generic terms instead. All commercial products should be sufficiently referenced in the Table of Materials. Addressed: deleted the term "Amscope software" from the protocol. However, we believe it is important to name the software being utilized for this methodology, as the key commands described in the protocol will be different based on the software used.
 - A. For example, AmScope software
- VI. Please revise the text, especially in the protocol, to avoid the use of any personal pronouns (e.g., "we", "you", "our" etc.). Addressed: revised the two steps that included the words "your".
- VII. Please ensure that all text in the protocol section is written in the imperative tense as if telling someone how to do the technique (e.g., "Do this," "Ensure that," etc.). The actions should be described in the imperative tense in complete sentences wherever possible. Avoid usage of phrases such as "could be," "should be," and "would be" throughout the Protocol. Any text that cannot be written in the imperative tense may be added as a "Note." However, notes should be concise and used sparingly. Please include all safety procedures and use of hoods, etc. Addressed.
- VIII. The Protocol should contain only action items that direct the reader to do something. Please move the discussion about the protocol to the Discussion. The authors believe this is referring to the cellular and stage descriptions in the protocol. We would like this information to be included in the protocol and instructional video, as we believe it would be most helpful for the audience in learning how to identify the categorizing components described in the protocol.
- IX. Please note that your protocol will be used to generate the script for the video and must contain everything that you would like shown in the video. Please add more details to your protocol steps. Please ensure you answer the "how" question, i.e., how is the step performed? Alternatively, add references to published material specifying how to perform the protocol action. Please add more specific details (e.g., button clicks for software actions, numerical values for settings, etc) to your protocol steps. There should be enough detail in each step to supplement the actions seen in the video so that

viewers can easily replicate the protocol. Addressed: included more “how” information to protocol steps.

- X. Step 4: consider mentioning these requirements in a note below the step or in a separate table. Addressed: included as a note below what was previously step #4.
- XI. After including a one line space between each protocol step, highlight up to 3 pages of protocol text for inclusion in the protocol section of the video. This will clarify what needs to be filmed. Do not highlight notes or headings of sections in which all steps are not to be filmed. Addressed: shortened amount of pages highlighted.
- XII. Consider shortening your representative results by only interpreting or paraphrasing your results rather than restating the data that are presented in the figures and table. Addressed: shorted representative results by three paragraphs through paraphrasing the data.
- XIII. Please combine all panels of one figure into a single image file.
- XIV. Please include a scale bar for all images taken with a microscope to provide context to the magnification used. Define the scale in the appropriate Figure Legend. As these images are zoomed in to allow for visualization of the cells, there would need to place a scale bar on every image and they would not be equivalent to one another. Instead, we have input the approximate diameter of the cells on the last line of the figure legends.
- XV. Please ensure that the references appear as the following: [LastName, F.I., LastName, F.I., LastName, F.I. Article Title. Source (ITALICS). Volume (BOLD) (Issue), FirstPage–LastPage (YEAR).] For 6 and more than 6 authors, list only the first author then et al. Please include volume and issue numbers for all references, and do not abbreviate the journal names. Make sure all references have page numbers or if early online publication, include doi. Addressed: reviewed journal titles that were abbreviated and included both volume and issue numbers for the journals that included both. The remaining references without journal numbers are those that do not have an issue number. There are a few references that are not from journal articles, and therefore do not follow the outlined structure.
- XVI. Please sort the Materials Table alphabetically by the name of the material. Addressed: rearranged names including numerical values and organized alphabetically.