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October 6th, 2021

Dr. Amit Krishnan
Review Editor
Journal of Visualized Experiments

Re: Revisions for JoVE63048R1

Dear Dr. Krishnan

Enclosed is the second revision of the manuscript "Photodegradable Hydrogel Interfaces for Bacteria Screening, Selection, and Isolation". In this version, we have revised the manuscript to meet your requests, starting from the revised document you sent us. We have tracked our changes in the manuscript, and your comments are addressed in a pointwise manner below.

If you have any comments or questions, or if you need any additional material, please contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan R. Hansen
Associate Professor
College of Engineering Keystone Research Faculty Scholar
Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering
Kansas State University

Editorial comments:

1. Please note that the manuscript has been formatted to fit the journal standard. Step numbers have been modified. Please check the step numbers referenced within the steps of the protocol.

Done.

2. The manuscript shows a duplication of 56% with an abstract of a dissertation deposited on the university site (attached iThenticate report for reference). We allow thesis usage; however, please confirm that the article has not been submitted/published elsewhere.

Kansas State University requires that we make our thesis dissertations electronically available on the institutional repository, K-Rex, at the completion of the student's degree. So, we submitted this manuscript to K-Rex when my student finished her degree, which was shortly after the initial submission to JoVE. This is where the match comes from in the iThenticate report.

I can confirm that the article has not been published or submitted elsewhere. Some of the figures have been adapted from previous publications, the appropriate copyright permissions have been obtained for these figures and the appropriate citations are provided in the caption.

3. Line 145: Does 3.4K MW mean 3400 MW?

That is correct. We have modified this to read "3,400 Da molecular weight " to make this clear.

4. Line 153: Does 10K MW mean 10000 MW?

That is correct. We have modified this to read "10,000 Da molecular weight" to make this clear.

5. Figure 1: Please replace "(a), (b), (c)..." with "(A), (B), (C),..."

Done. The revised figure is included with this resubmission.

6. Figure 2: Please label the figure to make it more informative.

Done. The revised figure is included with this resubmission. The Figure 2 caption on lines 661-668 has also been modified to reflect the additional detail.

7. Figure 4: Please include scale bars in all the images of the panel.

Done. The revised figure is included with this resubmission.

Other note: The order of authors was incorrectly listed in the JoVE submission website. Dr. Niloufar Fattahi should be listed as the first author, not Dr. Ryan Hansen, who is the corresponding author. The author order has been corrected in the JoVE editorial manager system with this resubmission, it was always listed correctly in the manuscript file.