

### **32517-Answering reviewers**

*We thank the editor and the reviewers for their careful consideration of our work. We were pleased that everyone was enthusiastic about the importance of our findings, and we have now addressed the few concerns raised below. We hope you now find it suitable for publication.*

To address the concerns:

#### **Reviewer #1 Comments to the Author:**

This is a very interesting topic. The paper is well written, clear and interesting. The results provide adequate grounds for the conclusion. I just doubt that the mice per group are too few to build survival curves and moreover to assess differences in survival curves between the four groups. Finally, briefly explain the meaning of dominant negative mutant (in particular dnCREB) could help readers not experts in expert molecular biology.

*Our survival curves were built with 7-10 mice per group. Although we bred new dnCREB male and female mice to generate the survival curves reported in this work, the sex-specific survival of this model has been previously published. Our data verify this highly significant difference between sexes. All three survival analyses statistical tests (Log Rank, Breslow and Tarone-Ware) were highly significant (p-values of 0.002, 0.01, and 0.004 respectively) supporting that our sample sizes were sufficient to detect differences. In addition, our power analyses suggested that 8 mice were needed per group to detect differences between sexes and genotypes, and we achieved this number.*

*We agree that a brief explanation of the dominant negative mutant dnCREB would be helpful for readers. We have added a short description of this animal model (Introduction, pg. 6)*

#### **Reviewer #2 Comments to the Author:**

Dear Editor: Dr. Bruns and colleagues investigated the role of interleukin-19 (IL-19) in a murine model of female-dominant heart failure (HF). The authors found that IL-19 is expressed in the murine heart with decreased expression in dnCREB female compared to male mice. Further, the relative expression of the two IL-19 receptor isoforms manifests differently in the heart by sex and by disease. In general, the animal study is novel and well conducted. The conclusion is appropriate based on the findings of the experiments. No further comment is made for the study.

*We thank this reviewer for careful consideration of our work.*