

Response to reviewers

We thank the reviewers for their time and careful review of our manuscript. Please find our responses to reviewers' comments below.

1. Please revise the figure 2. The axes of this figure are not properly mentioned that makes the figure less communicative.

We thank the reviewer for noting this omission and apologise for it. We have revised Figure 2 (page 15) to include time on the x-axis in days and have revised the figure legend to better describe the figure.

2. Figure 3 is drawn very superficially. The figure requires major revision.

We have completely revised Figure 3 (page 18) to specify the changes to neutrophils in the circulation and effects that occur in end organs. We hope this has added clarity to the manuscript. The legend for Figure 3 has also been modified to clarify the point being made.

3. Please provide elaboration of the terms being used first time in the text.

We have reviewed the manuscript and ensured that all acronyms have been identified and discussed on first mention, as well as included in the list of abbreviations at the end of the manuscript.

4. The manuscript requires further English revision.

We have proofread the text and corrected any errors with spelling or grammar.

Response to Science editor comments:

1. The “Author Contributions” section is missing. Please provide the author contributions

The author contributions section has been updated according to the BPG guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision and review

2. The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)

Grant approval documents have now been provided. Please note these grants did not specifically fund this study but supported senior researchers for several years including the period during which this review was completed.

3. The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

The original pictures have now been added and uploaded with the revised manuscript.

4. PMID numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout

The reference formatting has been updated according to the BPG Format for references guidelines

5. The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text

This section has now been completed.

6. If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights.

All images have now been designed by the authors. Figure 3 was created using Biorender and has been referenced as such.

The authors have also carefully reviewed the formatting according to the BPG guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision-review.