

## **36208-Reply to reviewers**

November 9, 2017

Dear Dr. Fang-Fang Ji;

On behalf of all our co-authors we would like to express thanks to the editors and reviewers for taking the time to comment on this report. Herein we will provide our replies to the comments of the reviewers:

### **Reviewer 00503175**

Thank you very much for the kind comments.

### **Reviewer 00503199**

Thank you very much for the kind comments.

### **Reviewer 00503257**

Thank you for the favorable reception of this report. The manuscript is indeed unusually long. This is not an accident. We had planned to produce a lengthy report. The reason for this unusual length was our conviction that the major issues encountered in evaluating body fluid balance in patients with critical illnesses cannot be really understood without a clear understanding of the concepts, methods of measuring, successful clinical applications, and shortcomings of measuring body water and extracellular volume. We suggest that this reasoning calls for a long report. Consequently, we did not shorten the body of the manuscript. We modified the core tip to strengthen the reasons for which fluid balance concepts and the methods for evaluating this balance in severe illness differ substantially from the traditional concepts of body fluid balance. We hope that the reviewer and editors will agree with this reasoning.

### **Reviewer 00503334**

Thanks for the favorable grading of this report.

Dr. Fang-Fang Ji, we are submitting the manuscript and the other forms which you requested. Please note that this report was not supported by any grants and that a language certificate is not needed because English is the native language of several authors, who made changes in the text. Also, the submission does not include a video or a file with supplementary materials.

Thank you again

Best regards

Maria-Eleni Roumelioti

Antonios H. Tzamaloukas