**RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS OF THE REVIEWERS**

First of all, we thank the reviewers for the constructive comments that helped us to improve the overall quality of the papers. Although few of the minor issues could not be addressed due to various limitations, we have tried to address all the major concerns with proper explanations and edits in the manuscript.

**Response to Reviewer number: 1**

**Comment:**

1. Authors did not clearly mention the method used and the research purpose in abstract
2. All figures, tables, and algorithms should be placed in either top or bottom of the pages
3. Section IV is short. It should be extended with more figures, results, and discussions
4. Citations in reference section should follow IEEE format if it is not specified or predetermined

**Our response:**

1. In order to clarify the issue, we clearly mentioned the frameworks and added an extra line, ‘the purpose of our research is to explain the reasons behind classification errors which can be utilized in the future to develop better models’. We hope that it explains the research purpose.
2. Unfortunately, placing figures, tables, and algorithms on top or bottom of the page takes a lot of extra space since all the images have to be grouped together and since our paper have already reached the max limit, we could not achieve it.
3. Please consider that out paper is already at the maximum possible limit and we cannot add any extension to a particular section. We considered that out proposed model diagram is self-explanatory and most of the workflow should be clear from reading the results section. We hope that it will be considered.
4. All the citations have been reformatted and should be in IEEE format now

**Response to Reviewer number: 2**

**Comment:**

1. Need a comparative study with the existing literature.
2. Reference started from [7] in the introduction section. What about [1]?
3. References should be in IEEE format.
4. Please write aim of this research in the introduction section.
5. Find the research gap in the literature review section.

**Our response:**

1. There is a small comparative study with the existing literature under table 2 in the result and analysis section. In that section we mentioned that our paper achieved 96.9% accuracy compared to the 96.6% base accuracy achieved by Kermany et al. Since the improvement was not vastly significant and it was not our objective focus anyway, we did not highlight with further discussion. We could not directly compare with any other existing literature since most of those used a different dataset.
2. Thank you for addressing this, [1] was missing from the paper and we have added it. References start from [1] in the camera-ready version
3. All the citations have been reformatted and should be in IEEE format now
4. In order to address the research aim, we have added the following additional sentence “The aim of the research is to help the development of a better model for OCT image classification through explaining the currently existing lacking”. We hope that the sentence will clear up the issues
5. In order to address the existing research gap, we have added the following paragraph at the end of the literature review section: “Most of the mentioned researches were done with the aim to achieve more accurate OCT image classification. However, these researches are done with black box neural network models without much explanation of classification issues. Our research tries to address these gaps with proper classification explanation on one of the largest OCT datasets.”

**Response to Reviewer number: 3**

**Comment:**

The authors have proposed machine learning algorithms to detect three eye-related anomalies by analyzing macular OCT. They improve the previous best result slightly and explain the misclassifications using XAI framework. Although their contribution is little, the overall writing is excellent.

**Our response:**

Thank you for the feedback. In order to enhance the contribution, we are planning to work further on the topic based on the suggestions we have generated.