Dr. Alexandra Le Bras, PhD Chief Editor *LabAnimal* journal

July 7, 2023

Dear Editor,

Thank you for considering our manuscript originally titled "Plasma metabolomics supports non-fasted sampling for early detection of impaired glucose tolerance in the Nile rat model of type 2 diabetes" (reference number: LABAN-A01579). The reviewer feedback was helpful to guide our edits and solidify our take-home messages for this manuscript. In response to the reviewer comments, we have edited the title to read "Plasma metabolomics supports non-fasted sampling for metabolic profiling across a spectrum of glucose tolerance in the Nile rat model for type 2 diabetes". This edit emphasizes that the goal of the study was to evaluate metabolomics sampling methods for Nile rats that have a wide range of glucose tolerances. For the same reasons, we have edited text in the abstract and manuscript to better reflect our objective and findings.

We have responded to reviewer comments point-by-point and have provided a revised manuscript for your review. We believe that this study fills an important gap in rodent metabolomics study design for diabetes research. The methods presented here are highly suited to reveal complex of non-fasted plasma, and will be ideal for understanding the metabolic changes occurring with progression towards overt diabetes glucose intolerance.

Thank you for your continued support of our work and your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Dr. Huishi Toh, PhD Assistant Researchers, Neuroscience Research Institute University of California, Santa Barbara