Author's response to reviews

Title: IQGAP1 and IQGAP2 are Reciprocally Altered in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Authors:

Colin D White (cwhite21@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)
Hema Khurana (hkhurana@partners.org)
Dmitri V Gnatenko (dgnatenko@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)
Zhigang Li (zli@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)
Robert D Odze (rodze@partners.org)
David B Sacks (dsacks@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)
Valentina A Schmidt (vaschmidt@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 19 October 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dr Melissa Norton  
Editor-in-Chief – BMC Gastroenterology

October 19th, 2010.

Dear Dr Norton,

Thank you for indicating that our manuscript entitled “IQGAP1 and IQGAP2 are Reciprocally Altered in Hepatocellular Carcinoma” may be acceptable for publication after we address the referees’ comments. Enclosed is a revised version. A detailed response to each item raised by the reviewer is outlined below.

Thank you for reconsidering this manuscript. We hope that it is now suitable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology.

Sincerely,

Valentina A. Schmidt, Ph.D.
Reviewer 1 – Jun-ichi Okano

Thank you for reviewing and commenting on our manuscript. We appreciate your recognition that this work is of importance in this field. We have made several changes in response to your review. These are summarized below:

In page 5, lines 6 and 7, spaces are lost before units. “Lysed in lysis buffer (50mM Tris (pH 8.0), 100 mM NaF, 30 mM Na₄P₂O₇, 2 mM Na₂MoO₄, 5 mM EDTA, 2mM Na₃VO₄)” should be “lysed in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris (pH 8.0), 100 mM NaF, 30 mM Na₄P₂O₇, 2 mM Na₂MoO₄, 5 mM EDTA, 2 mM Na₃VO₄)”.

We have made the requested change.

In page 7, line 3, a space is necessary between “positive if more than 10% of cells stained strongly in the cytoplasm” and semi-title “Quantitative real-time PCR”.

In the word document that we work from, there is a space between these two sections. However, when the manuscript is converted to a pdf by the online submission system, this space disappears. As such, we are unable to carry out the requested revision.
Please format your abstract into the following separate sections: Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.

We have made the requested change.

We would also like you to include a discussion of the limitations of the current work in light of your planned functional studies.

We have inserted a final paragraph at the end of the discussion, prior to the overall conclusions of the study. It reads: “This study is the first assessment of IQGAP1 and IQGAP2 expression in human HCC. Based on the data presented here, the stochiometry between IQGAP1 and IQGAP2 is central to HCC pathogenesis. The precise mechanism by which IQGAPs contribute to neoplastic transformation and tumor progression is still poorly understood. Numerous IQGAP1 binding partners are known to be involved in tumorigenesis [22, 47]. In contrast, little is known about the proteins with which IQGAP2 interacts. Future studies will provide insight into the role of IQGAPs in liver carcinogenesis”.