Author's response to reviews

Title: Slug Down-Regulation by RNA Interference Inhibits Invasion Growth in Human Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Attached please find a copy of my revised manuscript. Based on your comment and request, we have answered all the questions of the reviewers point to point and made an improvement on the original manuscript with the help of an English native speaker from international science editing .com.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for your all you have done in the process of our manuscript.

Sincerely yours

Dianliang Zhang

Attach
1. Overall the quality of the written English seems worse, there are many mistakes in the use of grammar, tense and punctuation and all these need correcting. There are too many to individually list but the absence of spaces after commas and periods makes reading the paper particularly difficult.
2. The results section of the abstract is particularly poorly written.
3. The last sentence on page 1 of the introduction is also very poorly written.

Reply::The paper was revised with the help of English Manager Science Editing (http://www.sciencemanager.com)

4. Please cite the original source of the cell lines used

Reply:: EC109 were kindly provided by Dr. Li (The First Affiliated Hospital, Zhengzhou University, Henan Key Laboratory of Tumor Pathology, Zhengzhou, China). TE13 was obtained from the Japanese Cell Resource Center for Biomedical Research (Sedai, Japan);

5. The immunohistochemistry section of the methods reads like a set of instructions and not a methods section.

Reply:: We wrote the section according to the manufacturer's instructions.

6. Although the data pertaining to the experiments already published in the oesophageal adenocarcinoma cell have been omitted from the current manuscript: the fact that the biological pattern is very similar makes the current data somewhat less unique and this should be pointed out in the discussion.

Reply:: This change has been made.

7. Figures 2 and 3 seem to be transposed and both the text and figure legends are incorrect.

Reply:: This change has been made.

8. The Y-axis in figure 3 is very skewed and I would suggest that a less biased and more representative scale is used (e.g. 0.4 - 0.8).
9. The fact that slug siRNA induces significant apoptosis (figure 1) but this is not evident in any significant change in total viable cell numbers (figure 2) remains puzzling. The authors' explanation based on the methodology used, is rather simplistic and this part of the paper definitely needs further experiments to validate the results. I would strongly suggest that the experiments in figures 1 and 2 are repeated using a positive control to induce apoptosis, any apoptosis inducing agent should be sufficient (such as cisplatin or camptothecin). This would give a relative marker of how much apoptosis is induced by slug siRNA and also provide an internal control to show the reduction in viable cell numbers.

Reply: Further studies are planned to determine the relationship of Slug with apoptosis and survival in oesophageal adenocarcinoma cell.

10. Figure 2 (or the MTT assay) also needs to show the MTT data for the time 0 point and there should be a significant rise in MTT over 3 days in the controls and mock transfectants and this does not seem to be the case, which either suggests that the assay is not working appropriately or that the cells are not actually proliferating?

Reply: This was the case in our report that no significant rise in MTT over 3 days in three groups. We repeated the experiment and shown the same results. But 4-5 days later, obviously increase in MTT could be seen in the controls and mock transfectants.