Author's response to reviews

Title: Argonaute proteins: potential biomarkers for human colon cancer

Authors:

Lan Li (doctorlilan@163.com)
Chaohui Yu (chaohuiyu@163.com)
Hengjun Gao (hengjun-Gao@shbiochip.com)
Youming Li (zlym@zju.edu.cn)

Version: 5 Date: 17 January 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editors,

Thank you for your letter on January 15 concerning our manuscript “Argonaute proteins: potential biomarkers for human colon cancer” (Manuscript number: 5451233982679361), I am very pleased to learn that our manuscript is acceptable for publication in BMC Cancer with minor revision.

We have revised the manuscript in accordance with the reviewers’ comments. We are returning here the revised manuscript with a point-by point response to the concerns of reviewers and a description of the changes made.

We would like to thank the referees for their useful comments and hope that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Best Regard,

You-Ming Li
The 1st Affiliated Hospital, College of Medicine, Zhejiang University
No.79 Qingchun Road, Hangzhou 310003
P.R. China

e-mail: zlym@zju.edu.cn
Response to the concerns of Reviewer 4

Comment 1:

Minor Essential Revisions

I agree with the changes made by the authors.

But, even at application of logistic regression it is difficult to say that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 is associated with an increased risk of colon cancer. EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 can be surrogate markers and there could be many other factors affecting both what results finally in an increased colon cancer risk.

You can only say that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 is significantly associated with occurrence of colon cancer tissue compared with normal tissue (logistic regression; OR = 3.071, \( P = 0.005 \) and OR = 7.392, \( P < 0.001 \), respectively).

Please, change this in the abstract, on page 8 and page 11.

Respond: The reviewer’s comments are very helpful and important. The relevant changes have been made as following:

Page 2, paragraph 3: The sentence has been revised to “Logistic regression analysis revealed that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 was significantly associated with occurrence of colon cancer tissue compared with non-cancer tissue”.

Page 8, paragraph 3: The sentence has been revised to “Logistic regression analysis revealed that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 was significantly associated with occurrence of colon cancer tissue (OR = 3.071, \( P = 0.005 \) and OR = 7.392, \( P < 0.001 \), respectively)”.

Page 11, paragraph 2: The sentence has been revised to “we observed that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 was significantly associated with occurrence of colon cancer tissue compared with non-cancer tissue”.

Comment 2:

The following sentence is too absolute.

Furthermore, EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 might represent the novel colon cancer markers
with early diagnostic significance.

I think you have to omit the word “the” that the sentence becomes: Furthermore, EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 might represent novel colon cancer markers with early diagnostic significance.

Please, change this in the abstract and in conclusion.

Respond: We have omitted the word “the” according the reviewer’s suggestion in the “abstract” section and “conclusion” section (page 3, paragraph 1 and page 12, paragraph 3).

We acknowledge the reviewer’s comments and suggestions very much, which are valuable in improving our manuscript.