Author's response to reviews

Title: MicroRNA-182 Downregulates Metastasis Suppressor 1 and contributes to Metastasis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Authors:

Jian Wang (jianwang04@yahoo.com.cn)
Jingwu Li (lijingwu@yahoo.com.cn)
Junling Shen (junling5541@163.com)
Chen Wang (oncology.wang@gmail.com)
Lili Yang (yanglili2006@yahoo.com.cn)
Xinwei Zhang (xinweizhang@yahoo.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
1 Reviewer's report
Title: MicroRNA-182 Downregulates Metastasis Suppressor 1 and contributes to Metastasis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2012
Reviewer: Elisa Giovannetti
Reviewer's report:

Q: The Authors replied to most of my questions. However they should improve the quality of their English. For example in the abstract they should delete "up-expression" and use the term "overexpression".
A: As suggested, two researchers improved the quality in English.

2 Reviewer's report
Title: MicroRNA-182 Downregulates Metastasis Suppressor 1 and contributes to Metastasis of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2012
Reviewer: Paolo Gandellini
Reviewer's report:

In the present version of the manuscript the authors addressed part of the referee’s requests, thus ameliorating their paper. However, some points still need to be addressed:

Major compulsory revisions
1. Page 9: the title “miR-182 promotes invasion through the inhibition of MTSS1” should be rephrased into “miR-182 promotes invasion and inhibits MTSS1”, as the specific involvement of MTSS1 suppression in miR-182 phenotype was not assessed (rescue experiment)
A: As suggested, we have rephrased it.

2. Fig.1A: miR-182 expression levels in individual normal specimens have not been reported (all values were normalized to 1). Please choose a reference sample (for example, the normal sample of patient #1) and provide all expression values as relative expression compared to that sample. By doing this it will be possible to appreciate not only the up-regulation of the miRNA in cancer specimens but also the inter-patient variations of miR-182 expression. Similarly, average expression levels in normal samples should be reported in fig. 1B (not normalized to 1).
A: It’s a good suggestion. We reevaluated every individual sample and got updated figures.

3. The criticism raised in point 2 holds true also for fig.4A. Quantify miR-182 and MTSS expression levels in individual normal and tumor tissues (do not show normal samples normalized to 1 or tumor/normal ratios, as in the western blotting). Similarly, if in fig. 4B correlation coefficients were calculated using tumor/normal ratios, this is not valid. Calculate them using expression of miR-182 and MTSS1 in individual samples.
A: we recalculated the Quantify \textit{miR-182} and \textit{MTSS1} expression levels in individual samples and performed statistics.

4. Report p-values for differences in luciferase activity of fig 5B.
A: As suggested, p-values were reported.

We really appreciate the good suggestions from reviewer. As suggested, we corrected our manuscript in both figures and text according to reviewer’s report.