Author's response to reviews

Title: Hepatitis B virus X protein suppresses caveolin-1 expression in hepatocellular carcinoma through regulating DNA methylation

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Version: 3 Date: 26 June 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Steenbergen

Thank you for your review of our manuscript (MS: 1027956701663771) entitled “Hepatitis B virus X protein suppresses caveolin-1 expression in hepatocellular carcinoma by regulating DNA methylation”. We appreciate the concerns and suggestions provided by the reviewers, and have revised our manuscript accordingly. Our point-by-point responses are provided below, and text that has been added or modified from the original text is shown in the revised manuscript in red font.

Upon review of our revised manuscript, we hope that you will find it acceptable for publication in *BMC Cancer* and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jiahong Dong, M.D, Ph.D
Xiaowu Li, M.D, Ph.D
Professor of Hepatobiliary Surgery
Responses to Reviewer:

Version: 2 Date: 11 June 2012

Reviewer: Naoshi Nishida

Reviewer's report:

Regarding the study of epigenetic modification, quantitative analysis of DNA methylation is important information. For example, the methylation level should be closely associated with expression of the corresponding gene and expression of HBx. From this point of view, the study carries the potential limitation because the lack of quantitative analysis due to lack of DNA. As a very limited amount of DNA is enough for MethyLight and authors described that they are currently performing this kind of quantitative studies in the responding letter, these limitation should be stated clearly in discussion of manuscript.

We appreciate the reviewer’s suggestion. The specific content has been added to the manuscript page 14, line 12. As follows: “Although the classic qualitative method for methylation, n-MSP is not an accurate method to evaluate the relationship of the methylation level with the expression of caveolin-1 and the expression of HBx. It would be better to use MethyLight and Western Blot to detect the expression of caveolin-1 and HBx. However, there was not a sufficient amount of HCC tissues to perform such further experiments. Therefore, the results were the limitation because the lack of quantitative analysis.”