Author's response to reviews

Title: WDR66 is a novel Marker for Risk Stratification and involved in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editorial board of BMC Cancer:

Please find enclosed the manuscript: “WDR66 is a novel Marker for Risk Stratification and involved in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma” by Qing Wang, Chenming Ma and Wolfgang Kemmner from the Research Group Surgical Oncology, Experimental and Clinical Research Center, a joint cooperation between the Charité Medical Faculty and the Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany for consideration of publication as a research article to BMC Cancer. All authors have read and approved this version of the article, and declared no potential competing interests. Neither the entire paper nor any part of its content has been published or has been accepted elsewhere and it is not being submitted to any other journal.

Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) is one of the most lethal malignancies of the digestive tract and in most cases the initial diagnosis is established only once the malignancy is in the advanced stage. Characterization of genes involved in the progression and development of ESCC may lead to the identification of new prognostic markers and therapeutic targets. Here we have identified WDR66 as potential novel prognostic marker for ESCC. This result is based on our observations that (1) WDR66 is specifically highly expressed in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and high WDR66 expression correlates with poor overall survival, (2) WDR66 regulates vimentin and occludin expression and thus might play a crucial role for EMT, and (3) knockdown of WDR66 suppresses cell growth and decreases cell viability of ESCC cells.

We believe that our findings are of interest for the readers of BMC Cancer, because to our best knowledge, this is the first report investigating the role of WDR66 in esophageal cancer development and progression. This article can improve our understanding of the biology of ESCC, and thereby identify goals for further investigation of selective targeting of WDR66 as a novel strategy for ESCC treatment.

We hope that the editorial board and the reviewers will agree on the interest of this study.

Sincerely yours,
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