Author's response to reviews

Title: Membrane Type 1 Matrix Metalloproteinase induces an epithelial to mesenchymal transition and cancer stem cell-like properties in SCC9 cells

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Gary Edward Gallick,

First, we would like to thank both you and the reviewers for considering our manuscript entitled “Membrane Type 1 Matrix Metalloproteinase induces an epithelial to mesenchymal transition and cancer stem cell-like properties in SCC9 cells” (MS: 1538820525790441) for publication in *BMC Cancer*, and giving us an opportunity to submit the revised version. In light of you and the reviewer 1’s comments, we have modified that sentence. Please see our point-by-point responses to the comments below, and the corresponding revisions to the manuscript, both marked in red. Special thanks to you and the reviewer’s good comments.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Lai-Kui Liu

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RESPONSES TO THE EDITOR AND REVIEWER 1 COMMENT

Comment: I am not agree with their conclusion; Overexpression of MT1-MMP induced an EMT process and therefore cells had the ability to perform invasion and metastasis. Invasion and particularly metastasis are very complex processes and they require more than an EMT process. I suggest modify this sentence.

Responds: We have modified this sentence, and now the conclusion is that our study demonstrated that MT1-MMP, through repressing the transcription of E-cadherin, induced less aggressive oral SCC9 cells to undergo an EMT, which converted the SCC9-M cells into exhibiting a mesenchymal-like phenotype, and to possess more invasive ability.