Author's response to reviews

Title: Peretinoin, an acyclic retinoid, improves hepatic gene signature of chronic hepatitis C following curative therapy of hepatocellular carcinoma

Authors:

Masao Honda (mhonda@m-kanazawa.jp)
Taro Yamashita (taro@m-kanazawa.jp)
Tatsuya Yamashita (tatsuya@m-kanazawa.jp)
Kuniaki Arai (ara@m-kanazawa.jp)
Yoshio Sakai (yoshio@m-kanazawa.jp)
Akito Sakai (asaka@m-kanazawa.jp)
Mikiko Nakamura (mchemis@m-kanazawa.jp)
Eishiro Mizukoshi (eishiro@m-kanazawa.jp)
Shuichi Kaneko (skanek@m-kanazawa.jp)

Version: 2 Date: 15 September 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Danrolf de Jesus

Thank you for the suggestive comments.

Regarding the first concern.

Methodology
1) In the methods you indicate that "The original protocol of this study is presented in Supplemental Document". Please can you explain what you mean by the original protocol? Do you mean earlier versions of the protocol used in this study?

We are sorry the use of "original protocol" is confusing. We used the same protocol as attached the supplemental Document. We removed the "original" and exchanged the phrase from "The original protocol of this study is presented in Supplemental Document" to "The detail protocol of this study is presented in Supplemental Document"

Regarding the second concern

2) The supplemental document has a 'Protection of Confidentiality' section that states that the information in the document should only be provided to individuals who are directly involved in the study and that permission from Kowa Company Ltd. must be obtained before the contents are published or disclosed to a third party. You have stated in your manuscript that no external funding was obtained for this study, but we would like you to please describe the role of Kowa Company Ltd. in this study since you appear to be using a protocol developed by this company.

We carefully look back the financially support for our experiments. We exchanged the "Joint Research and Development Agreement" with Kowa Company Ltd and had a founding from Kowa. We exchanged the phrase from "No current external funding sources for this study." to "This work was supported in part by KOWA Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan" We and Kowa had some discussions of protocol, experimental procedure, material stock and data interpretation.

Sincerely yours
Masao Honda

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Masao Honda, M.D. & Ph.D.
Gastroenterology
Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medicine
Takara-Machi, 13-1 Kanazawa, 920-8641, Japan
Tel: 001-81-76-265-2235
Fax: 001-81-76-234-4250

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