Author’s response to reviews

Title: Estrogen receptor alpha-coupled Bmi1 regulation pathway in breast cancer and its clinical implications

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear editor:

We would like to submit the enclosed research manuscript entitled “Estrogen receptor α-coupled Bmi1 regulation pathway in breast cancer and its clinical implications”, which we wish to be considered for publication in “BMC Cancer”. No conflict of interest exits in the submission of this manuscript, and it is approved by all authors for publication. I would like to declare on behalf of my co-authors that the work described was original research that has not been published previously, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere, in whole or in part. All the authors listed have approved the manuscript that is enclosed.

Bmi1 is an important regulator in breast cancer, but its relationship with other factors such as ERα, PR, Ki-67 and HER2 is unknown. In the present study, we demonstrate that the expression of Bmi1 can be transcriptionally stimulated by ERα. In addition, activity of the ERα-coupled Bmi1 pathway is generally correlated with high level of cyclin D1, while downregulation of its activity results in aberrant expression of p16INK4a, which is associated with more aggressive breast cancer phenotypes including those with a high Ki-67 index, or subtypes which are HER2-enriched or triple-negative. These results reveal the ERα-coupled Bmi1 regulation pathway plays an important role in human breast cancer.

I hope this paper is suitable for “BMC Cancer” and I deeply appreciate your consideration of our manuscript. We are looking forward to receiving comments from the reviewers. If you have
any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact me. The information of suggested reviewers and all contributing authors are listed as follows:

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Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely yours,

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