Author's response to reviews

Title: Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 3 (MEKK3) overexpression is an early event in Esophageal Tumorigenesis and is a predictor of poor disease prognosis

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Version: 3 Date: 3 October 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
October 3, 2013

To,
The Editor
BMC Cancer

Sub: Submission of manuscript entitled “Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 3 (MAP3K3/MEKK3) overexpression is an early event in Esophageal Tumorigenesis and is a predictor of poor disease prognosis”

Authors: Md. Raghibul Hasan, Rinu Sharma, Anoop Saraya, Tushar K. Chattopadhyay, Siddartha DattaGupta, Paul G. Walfish, Shyam S. Chauhan, Ranju Ralhan

Dear Editor,

We are submitting the revised manuscript entitled “Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 3 (MAP3K3/MEKK3) overexpression is an early event in Esophageal Tumorigenesis and is a predictor of poor disease prognosis” on behalf of all the authors for consideration for publication in BMC Cancer.

The manuscript has been extensively revised taking into consideration all comments from both the reviewers. Answers to reviewer comments are appended along with this letter. The changes made in the revised manuscript have been highlighted. The point wise response to all the reviewers’ comments is also appended for ready reference.

We look forward to a favorable response.

Sincerely yours,

Ranju Ralhan

(Dr. Ranju Ralhan)
Reviewer's report
Title: Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase Kinase Kinase 3 (MEKK3) overexpression is an early event in Esophageal Tumorigenesis and is a predictor of poor disease prognosis
Version: 2 Date: 27 August 2013
Reviewer: Liru He
Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions
1. In Table 1, the Cytoplasmic/Nuclear Positivity number of histopathology is 63, but the sum of 21, 33 and 10 is 64, the related number should be wrong.
   This has been corrected.
2. The parameter which is not significant in the Kaplan Meier Survival analysis, should not be put into the Multivariate Cox regression analysis, thus will influence the results.
   Agreed. The Multivariate Cox regression analysis has been performed again with only parameters that were significant in the Kaplan Meier Survival analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The median follow-up time should be provided
   Done.
2. Some language errors should be corrected
   Done

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Done.