Author's response to reviews

Title: Rab11 Regulates E-cadherin Expression and Induces Cell Transformation in Colorectal Carcinoma

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Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2014

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#1 reviewer

In this paper, the authors examined E-cadherin and Rab11 expressions in 113 colorectal carcinoma patients. Both E-cadherin and Rab11 expressions were significantly upregulated in tumors compared to normal tissues and co-overexpression of E-cadherin and Rab11 was detected in 2/3 of patients. When Rab11 was overexpressed in colon cancer HT-29 cells, E-cadherin expression was upregulated and induced fibroblast-like cell polarity. Although co-overexpression of E-cadherin and Rab11 in colorectal carcinoma is very interesting, the authors should clarify the following points.

Major compulsory revisions
1. Figure 1 a.
The magnification of images in Normal and Tumor look different. The authors need to show the scale bar in all images.
Answer: Scale bars were added in all Fig1a images.

2. Figure 3 e.
GFP-Rab11-positive cells look like dead cells. To show the distribution of GFP-Rab11-positive cells in the cell leading edge, the authors need to show the same quality of image as Figure 4a.
Answer: Image was replaced in figure 3g with new one to show the viable cell with GFP-Rab11 overexpression.
3. Figure 4.
To show that Rab11 induces the cell migration, the authors need to show the quantitative data (for instances, Boyden chamber assay) in addition to the single cell images.

**Answer:** The result of trans-well migration assay was added in Fig3c and 3f with Rab11 overexpression and knockdown cells. The method for trans-well migration was added in page 9 (methods 1.5) and the figure 3 legend was also corrected.

4. Results, third paragraph. Because fibroblasts are commonly recognized as non-polarized cells, the term “fibroblast-like polarity” is very confusing. The authors need to use the different term or to explain in detail.

**Answer:** The term “fibroblast-like polarity” was corrected as “cell membrane protrusion”.

#2 reviewer
Major Compulsory Revisions
This article focuses on the Rab11 regulating expression of E-cadherin in colorectal cancer, which is seldom reported in the current literature. And the preliminary results from this research are inspiring. I think this study maybe is helpful for scholars to enhance understanding about the biological behavior of colorectal cancer. However, I think the authors should revise or answer those questions.
1. The words of article should be polishing, the concept of professional terms should seek to clear and structured. Such as, there are many insignificant sentences in the article, the first sentence of Background——“Most cancers are epithelial cancers”. The concept of “tumor” does not mean “cancer”, and “65 men (male), 48 women (female)”. Please revise the above-mentioned facts.

**Answer:** The corrections were made in the revised manuscript in page 5, and page7.

2. The authors only wrote the patients’ age range. Please provide the median age, and the percentage please described to one decimal place as a unified form in this paper.

**Answer:** The median age was provided (page7) and the one decimal place of the percentage was unified (page13).

3. The structure of article is too loose and lack of logic thread, especially THE BODY OF TEXT. It made the scientific thesis less prominent. It does harm to the readers’ reading and comprehension. Please give the logic ordinal numeral, such as 1, 1.1, 1.2……2, 2.1, 2.2……

**Answer:** The ordinal numerals were given in methods and the results.
4. The content of article should be condensed; the part of Background is too long.

**Answer:** The background in page5, second paragraph and in page6, second paragraph were shortening and highlighted as yellow color.

5. Some references are outmoded; please provide the recent literatures as possible. And revise the references according to demanded format by editors of journals.

**Answer:** The following references that published recently were added in the discussion to support the role of Rab11 or E-cadherin in collective cell migration, however, those studies were observed in drosophila, and our study for the first time demonstrated the importance of Rab11 regulated E-cadherin expression in colorectal carcinoma.


**Quality of written English:**
The manuscript was reviewed prior to initial submission by a professional copyeditor, a certificate of manuscript editing is attached of this having been completed. The revision has also been checked and corrected by Native American Ms. Sarah Hickey.