Author's response to reviews

Title: Fibulin-1 is Epigenetically Down-regulated and Associated with Bladder Cancer Recurrence

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Bladder cancer is the fifth most common malignant disease in the Western world, while as the prognosis of patients’ remains poor, with a high recurrence rate; it is also one of the most expensive cancers to treat. Therefore, it is of great importance to investigate molecular biomarkers for prediction of risk and recurrence of bladder cancer.

In this study, we provide evidences that FBLN-1 functions as a novel candidate tumor suppressor gene in bladder cancers and its down-regulation due to the promoter hypermethylation. Restoration of Fibulin-1 expression significantly inhibited bladder cancer cell growth, motility and angiogenesis in vitro and in vivo. Moreover, the expression of fibulin-1 was associated with bladder cancer recurrence. It could be a potential predictive marker of cancer recurrence and a candidate target for gene therapy in bladder cancer.