Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical and Biological Significance of STAT1 in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Editor’s comment:
The authors have addressed all reviewers’ comment appropriately, except for one:
#It seem that the positive immunostaining rate is very high in this study (123 of 131, 93.8%),
authors should explain the possible mechanism, and again, if only 8 of 131 cases with negative for
immunostaining, is it logical to conclude #patients with STAT1-strong/weak tumors had a
significantly longer survival compared to those with STAT1-negative tumors#?
I would strongly recommend interpreting the results according to the concern of the reviewer, i.e.
to discuss a potential bias due to the low number of negative cases 8 vs. 131. It would be better
to write:... results point to, or indicate etc. than to state #they have..#

Response: We thank the editor for his/her comment. We understand that our
conclusion may be weakened by the fact that our cohort was skewed heavily
toward STAT1-positive tumor (i.e. only 8 tumors were negative). Nonetheless, we
performed conventional statistical analysis and we did find statistical significance.
Thus, we believe that our finding is logical. We are simply reporting what we
observed.

We do understand the editor’s concern and we agree that the conclusion can be
toned down as suggested. In this regard, we have gone through the entire
manuscript and tone down any conclusive statements appropriately. We also have
specifically indicated in the Discussion about this potential bias (the last paragraph,
page 16).

We sincerely hope that this manuscript is now acceptable for publication.