Author's response to reviews

Title: Knockdown of anterior gradient 2 expression extenuates tumor-associated phenotypes of SNU-478 ampulla of Vater cancer cells

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Version: 2  Date: 20 June 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Dedhar

Enclosed please find a manuscript entitled “Knockdown of anterior gradient 2 expression extenuates tumor-associated phenotypes of SNU-478 ampulla of Vater cancer cells” by Kim et al., which we would appreciate having considered for publication in BMC Cancer. The manuscript consists of a word file containing the main text, references, figure legends and four figures in JPEG format. This report contains results of our original research and has not been previously published and will not be submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration for publication in BMC Cancer. We also confirm that there is no conflict of interest associated with this study and any of the authors.

Anterior gradient 2 (AGR2) has emerged as a potential biomarker and a therapeutic target through recent discoveries. Tumor promoting activity of AGR2 has been reported in multiple cancers, including breast, esophageal, gastric, colorectal, prostate and head and neck cancers. However, AGR2 expression and its tumor-promoting activity have not yet been assessed in biliary tract cancers, which are highly lethal carcinomas arising from the bile duct. In this study, we have examined AGR2 expression and its tumor-promoting activity in biliary tract cancer cell lines. Our study demonstrates that AGR2 expression augments various tumor phenotypes, including increased viability, anchorage-independent colony formation, Matrigel™ invasiveness, drug resistance, and in vivo tumor formation.

Our manuscript describes AGR2 expression and its role in tumor promotion in biliary tract cancer cells for the first time. Considering emerging importance of AGR2 in cancer biology and urgency to develop effective measures for diagnosis and therapy of biliary tract cancer, we strongly believe that our study well merits publication in BMC Cancer.

We thank you in advance for handling our paper.

Sincerely yours,

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