Author's response to reviews

Title: Identification of genes associated with cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We have revised our manuscript in light of the reviewers' comments and enclosed herewith for your consideration is the second revised version of our manuscript (MS:6922772449127051) entitled “Identification of genes specific to cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line” by Ping Zhang, Zhiyuan Zhang, Xiaojian Zhou, Weiliu Qiu, Fangan Chen, Wantao Chen.

We appreciate the points made by the two reviewers and we are in general in agreement that modifications along the lines that they recommended would strengthen our paper. Accordingly, we have revised the manuscript and provide below point-by-point responses regarding their suggestions.

We would like to advise there are four major changes to the revised manuscript in response to the reviewers. These are:

1. As Reviewer Paola Perego advised, we have changed the title ‘Identification of genes specific to cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell lines’ to ‘Identification of genes associated with cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line’.

2. As reviewer Kevin J Cullen suggested, we have collected 50 specimens of primary oral squamous cell carcinoma. Based on their growth inhibitory rate in modified MTT assay, these samples were classified into cisplatin resistant group and sensitive group. Immunostainings of CCND1 and CCND3 were further performed and results were analyzed with Mann-Whitney U test. These corresponding data (underlined in text) was included in the revised manuscript.

3. We replaced the Western result for ABCB1 in Figure 3B with a new figure.

4. Spelling mistakes and grammar errors, such as ‘Gene Oncology Term’ in Page 13, were corrected.
We hope that our manuscript is now acceptable for publication, but please let me known if we can provide further information.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

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Point-by-point response:

Reviewer Paola Perego

I only suggest a slight change to the title because there is no proof that the found genes are specific to cisplatin because their role in response to other drugs has not been studied. I suggest change "specific to" in "associated with"

Response: We have changed the title ‘Identification of genes specific to cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell lines’ to ‘Identification of genes associated with cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line’.
Reviewer Kevin J Cullen

1). In response to the question that one or a few candidates should be verified in primary oral cancers, the author cited a separate publication and stated that CCND1 and CCND3 were shown to be differentially expressed in primary tumors consistent with their drug resistance pattern. To improve the current manuscript, it would be helpful to include the similar data in this manuscript since clinical materials and antibodies are easily accessed by the authors.

Response: We have further collected 50 specimens of primary oral squamous cell carcinoma. Based on their growth inhibitory rate in modified MTT assay, these samples were classified into resistant group and sensitive group. Immunostainings of CCND1 and CCND3 were performed and results were analyzed with Mann-Whitney U test. These corresponding data (underlined in text) were included in the revised manuscript.

2. In Figure 3B, Western result for ABCB1 detection is very ambiguous and should be replaced by a clear figure.

Response: We have replaced that figure with a new clear one.

3. The manuscript requires careful editing for language. For example, ‘Gene Oncology Terms’ on line 1 page 13 should be ‘Gene Ontology’.

Response: Spelling mistakes and grammar errors, such as ‘Gene Oncology Term’ on Page 13 were corrected.