Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of genes specific to cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line

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Reviewer: Kevin J Cullen

Reviewer’s report:

Comments on the revised manuscript:

The revised manuscript entitled “Identification of genes specific to cisplatin resistance in human oral squamous cell carcinoma cell line” by Zhang P et al. includes substantial changes to the original submission. The authors have addressed the majority of questions from the reviewers carefully either by inclusion of additional experiments or in changes in the text. In general, the authors have performed a thorough phenotypic and molecular analysis on a novel cisplatin resistant cell model, and identified a panel of candidate genes which may associate with cisplatin resistance in oral cancer. The findings provide additional clues to the future screening of target biomarkers and to the elucidation of mechanisms for cisplatin resistance in human cancers.

Several minor concerns before the acceptance of the manuscript:

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.

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

3). The manuscript requires careful editing for language. For example, “Gene Oncology Terms” on line 1 page 13 should be “GeneOntology.”

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'