Author's response to reviews

Title: Glioma stem cells are more aggressive in recurrent tumors with malignant progression than in the primary tumor, and both can be maintained long-term in vitro

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Version: 4 Date: 13 October 2008

Author's response to reviews:

Oct. 13, 2008
Dear Editors,
Enclosed please find our manuscript entitled “Glioma stem cells are more aggressive in recurrent tumors with malignant progression than in the primary tumor, and both can be maintained long-term in vitro” for consideration of publication in BMC Cancer.
Our manuscript has been revised according to the comments of both the editors and two referees.
Every questions and revision are listed in detail as below:
Questions of the editors:
1. Question: Please note that both referees have commented on the quality of English used in the submission. We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional copyediting service. Examples are those provided by the Manuscript Presentation Service (www.biomedes.co.uk), International Science Editing (http://www.internationalscienceediting.com/) and English Manager Science Editing (http://www.sciencemanager.com/). BioMed Central has no first-hand experience of these companies and can take no responsibility for the quality of their service.
Answer: We have obtained the helps to copyedit the whole manuscript by the Manuscript Presentation Service (www.biomedes.co.uk) as you recommended to improve the quality of English, we feel it’s much better than the previous
Questions by John Ohlfest
1. Question: Despite the effort put into fixing grammatical errors, many sentences remain awkward and incorrect. The reviewer suggests if the manuscript is accepted that the editorial staff at the journal may assist in fixing the remaining errors.

Answer: We asked a professional copyediting service (the Manuscript Presentation Service; www.biomedes.co.uk) to copyedit the whole manuscript carefully for the purpose of minimizing the grammatical errors and other language mistakes.

Question by Joerg Wischhusen
1. Question: In Fig. 3 C and F, there is a shift between the anti-CD133 and the isotype staining. However, the overlay does not show a really distinct CD133+ population - which is a common problem with anti-CD133 stainings. Can this be improved by plotting FSC against CD133?

Answer: We have already tried plotting FSC against CD133, but little improvement was observed. For the CD133+ cell population only possessed a little percentage of the whole cell populations (usually <10%) in SU-1, it was hard to show an obvious shift between the anti-CD133 and the isotype staining. But the difference between the percentages of CD133+ in SU-1 and SU-2 can be clearly showed in the figure.

2. Question: In this revised version, the authors state that "GSCs cannot reach the full terminal differentiation stage" - and this strong statement seems to be based only on the incomplete differentiation in FCS-containing medium during one week. Unless they are willing to try additional ways of differentiating the cells, this statement needs to be softened (e.g. by writing that "GSCs do not reach the full terminal differentiation stage under conditions that would induce terminal differentiation in neural stem cells").

Answer: The corresponding revisions were made in the abstract and the results of the manuscript according to the referee’s opinion.

3. Question: Language problems remain. To cite just one example: "The favorable results that 100 CD133+ tumor cells could produce tumor mass in NOD-SCID mice, while up to 100,000 CD133- tumor cells could not, evidently proved that CD133+ tumor cells were brain tumor cells, and CD133- cells were not." should probably read: "... evidently proved that CD133+ tumor cells were brain tumor initiating cells, and CD133- cells were not."

Answer: We asked a professional copyediting service (the Manuscript Presentation Service; www.biomedes.co.uk) to copyedit the whole manuscript carefully for the purpose of minimizing the grammatical errors and other language mistakes.
Best Regards,
Yours truly,
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