Author’s response to reviews

Title: Metalloproteases meprin-α (MEP1A) is a prognostic biomarker and promotes proliferation and invasion of colorectal cancer

Authors:

Xiao Wang (hnwangx@163.com)

Jian Chen (yufuchenjian@sina.com)

Jingtao Wang (1986wangjingtao@163.com)

Fudong Yu (fdyush@163.com)

Senlin Zhao (sunshinezsl1989@163.com)

Yu Zhang (zhangyugood217@163.com)

Huamei Tang (huamei-tang@hotmail.com)

Zhihai Peng (pzh_sjtu@163.com)

Version: 3 Date: 24 Feb 2016

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and the reviewers’ advice. Based on your comment and request, we have made some modification on the former manuscript “BCAN-D-16-00008_R2”. All correction sections in the new manuscript were red marked for easy check/editing purpose. Here below is our description on revision according to the reviewers’ comments.
Reviewer 1

Minor comments:

1. The authors explained reasons for analysis of two different cohorts of CRC patients in "response to reviewers" but not in the manuscript. The passage should be incorporated to "material and methods" or results section for better understanding to interested readers.

2. There is a missing dot in p13l48.

Answers to minor comments:

1. We have add some explanations in "material and methods -- Immunohistochemistry on tissue microarrays" section. It says:’ Since the 36 paired tissue specimens were collected only one year ago and their follow-up data was lacked, we chose to use a tissue microarray (TMA) with an over 5 years’ follow-up data and a detailed clinico-pathological data to determine whether MEP1A expression correlated with CRC clinico-pathological factors and survival.’

2. The missing dot has been added.

Reviewer 2

Minor comments:

1. Abstract Line 25: Correct '.staining of a tissue microarray containing 88 paired CRC specimens…'

2. Introduction Line 60: Similarly, correct '.by immunohistochemical analysis of a CRC tissue microarray.'
Answers to minor comments:

1&2. All two sentences have been corrected.

Again, thank you and all the reviewers for the kind advice.

Sincerely yours,

Zhihai Peng

pzh_sjtu@163.com