Author's response to reviews

Title: High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

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

Thank you again for your letters concerning our manuscript entitled “High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma”. The comments are all valuable. We have made corrections, which we hope will be met with approval. The point-by-point answers to the comments and suggestions are listed below.

Editors request:
1.) Could you please include a statement in the methods to clarify whether the ethics committee specifically approved the verbal informed consent process

Answer: Thank you for your consideration and we have passed the hospital ethics committee review previously. Because the ethics report is partly Chinese, we can not reflect in the manuscript, and we can upload as a supplement in the next page.

2.) Please add the two corresponding authors' emails to the title page

Answer: Thank you for pointing this out, we have add the two corresponding authors' emails in the title page (Page 11, line 15).

Finally, we very much appreciate your and the referees time in reviewing our manuscript. We are looking forward to hearing from you regarding your final decision.

With kindest regards,

Yours Sincerely

Hao Chen
Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center IRB

Protocol title: High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

Protocol version & Date: V1.2014.10.16

Informed consent version & Date: Exempted

Study site & Principle Investigator: Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center & Xue-Ping Wang

Two IRB members of SYSUCC have expedited review the proposal on Oct. 24, 2014 in accordance to ICH GCP guidelines, government regulations and laws, and agreed to approve this protocol.

Conditions: 1. Do not deviate from, or make changes to the study protocol without prior written IRB approval, except when it is necessary to eliminate immediate hazards to research subjects or when the change involves only logistical or administrative issues; 2. Report the following to SYSUCC IRB: (1) study protocol or consent document change, (2) serious adverse event, (3) study progress, and (4) new information that may be relevant to a subject's willingness to continue participation in the study; 3. Report study progress to SYSUC IRB at a 12-monthly interval until study closure.

Peng Wang-qing
IRB Chairman
Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center
2014-10-24