Author’s response to reviews

Title: Comprehensive Analysis of Differentially Expressed Genes Associated with PLK1 in Bladder Cancer

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Reviewer reports:

Claire Perks (Reviewer 1): Fig 1 B in the revised paper looks the same as the original- could this be replaced with a more representative blot.

Thank you for your advice. The Fig 1B has been replaced.

Alcides Chaux (Reviewer 2): In this study, authors evaluate the effect of silencing PKL1 expression (a well-known oncogene) in the proliferation, invasion and migration of bladder cell lines (normal urothelium and cancer cells). The study also included the evaluation of these downstream effects in human tissue samples from patients with urothelial carcinoma, in association with clinicopathologic and outcome features. The manuscript has been considerably improved by the authors. All the recommendations given by the reviewers have been taken into consideration and have been properly addressed. The English grammar and style of the
manuscript have achieved an adequate level of written quality. A few additional recommendations are provided below.

ABSTRACT: Please correct the sentence "Statistical analysis showed that the five genes expressions were significantly correlation with the PLK1 expression in normal bladder tissues and bladder cancer tissues."

Thank you for your suggestion. It has been corrected.

INTRODUCTION: It seems that references are missing from the first paragraph of this section. Statements such as "Bladder cancer is a most common urological malignancy which causes approximately 150,000 deaths annually worldwide" and "Approximatedly (sic) 15-25% of non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer will progress to muscle-invasive bladder cancer" usually require citations. Also, past results and well-known facts are usually stated in the present tense, so sentences such as "Though the improved therapeutic strategies were given, there was still a high mortality" need to be rephrased. Finally, for the third paragraph in this section (the one beginning with "We previously determined …"), please consider removing the text (or moving it to the Discussion) from the second sentence ("To explore the molecular …") up to the end of the paragraph, and to merge the remainder with the next paragraph ("In the current study …"). The reason for the last recommendation is to shorten this section, providing only the essentials to understand the context and rationale of the study. Previous studies carried out by the authors that are related to the current study can be discussed at length in the Discussion section.

Thank you for your advice. It has been corrected according to your suggestion.

FIGURES: In the boxplots, it is not necessary to include 6 decimal points for the P values. One decimal point in scientific notation will be enough, and will be easier to read in the plots. Please consider updating the plots using this recommendation (v.g., instead of P=4.793990e-006, use P=4.8e-6). This would also reduce the clutter from the plots. For the correlation plots, if the clusters represent 2 different population samples, then maybe it would be better to analyze them separately. Please consider this option.

Thank you for your advice. It has been corrected according to your suggestion.