Author’s response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and safety of weekly nab-paclitaxel plus gemcitabine in Chinese patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas: a phase II study

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Author’s response to reviews:
Dear Editors:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise this manuscript to address the additional editorial comments. We have made every effort to address each comment. Please see below for a detailed description of how each comment was addressed.

Editor’s Comments:

Comment 1: Please remove the Chinese bridging-protocol May 2014_redacted.docx document from the supplementary files as it may not be published with the manuscript.

We have removed the protocol from the submission website.

Comment 2: Please revise the Declarations subsection - Ethics approval and consent to participate - of your manuscript to include the full names of all the ethics committees that approved your study. We recommend the following format: “This study was approved by the ethics committee of [xxx] Hospital [or University].” If more than five ethics committees approved your study, you may wish to list the names of the committees in an additional file.

The current manuscript contains the following information which we believe is acceptable based on your example and have made no additional changes.

"All relevant ethical approvals from institutional review board/independent ethics committee have been obtained prior to study commencement. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients prior to study entry. Institutional review boards/independent ethics committees included Ethics Committee of Beijing Cancer Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center Ethics Committee, Committee of Shanghai First People’s Hospital, Jiangsu Cancer Hospital, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, College of Medicine, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Red Cross Cancer Hospital, Tianjin Cancer Institute and Hospital Ethics Committee, PLA General Hospital Ethics Committee, Affiliated Hospital of Academy of Military Medical Sciences, Xijing Hospital, Ethics Committee of Jiangsu Cancer Hospital, Harbin Medical University Cancer Hospital Ethics, and Ethics Committee of Zhejiang Cancer Hospital." (page 15, lines 333-343)

Comment 3: In the Funding section of the Declarations please indicate the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.
This section is revised to read, “Funding received from Celgene Corporation. Celgene was involved in the development of the protocol and analysis of the data. All authors, including those authors listed as employees of Celgene were involved in the writing, review, and provided final approval of the manuscript.” (page 16, lines 354-357)

Comment 4: Please ensure that there are specific Authors' Contributions for all of the authors. We believe there are some authors missing from the section.

The contributions of all authors were listed; however we have revised this section to list all initials for clarity, “ML, DB, BL analyzed and interpreted the patient data regarding all study endpoints and safety. RX, XY, JH, LW, HP, GH, JX, YZ, SY, JC, JY, GD, ML, DB, BL, and LS collected data, were contributors to the writing of the manuscript, reviewed, and provided final approval of the manuscript.” (page 16, lines 359-362)

Comment 5: Please check our authorship criteria and ensure all named authors have provided sufficient input to be so registered. http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship

We believe all authors have provided sufficient input.

Comment 6: At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethrough or text in different colours. All relevant tables and figures should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

The clean manuscript and files have been uploaded.

Also, per your request, forms with signatures and dates of all authors were sent to the editorial office indicating their agreement with the change in author order. Because you have not indicated any issue we are assuming all is in order.

Best regards,

Lin Shen