Author’s response to reviews

Title: Valproic Acid Sensitizes Metformin-resistant Human Renal Cell Carcinoma Cells by Upregulating H3 Acetylation and EMT Reversal

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Szunyogova

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled "Valproic acid sensitizes Metformin-resistant human renal cell carcinoma cells by upregulating H3 acetylation and EMT reversal", manuscript ID BCAN-D-17-01686R2. We have studied the comments carefully and have made corrections.
1. Please include email addresses of all Authors on the ‘Title Page’. Corresponding Authors should still be indicated.

#R: We have added all the email addresses of Authors on the ‘Title Page’

2. Please move the Abstract down so it starts on a new page and it is not part of the ‘Title Page’.

#R: We have made the corrections according to the comment.

3. It has come to our attention that throughout the manuscript there is significant text overlap with other publications, most notably in the following sections:

   a. Materials and Methods – Western blot analysis, Wound healing assay, Migration assays

   While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated. The report has been attached to further help your revisions.

   #R: Thank for your suggestion. We rewrote these sentences in the section ‘Methods – Western blot analysis, Wound healing assay, Migration assays’. We believe these reformulated paragraphs will have no overlap with other publications.

4. Please rename the ‘Materials and Methods’ heading to just ‘Methods’.

#R: We have made the correction according to the comment.
5. Please provide the exact catalogue numbers for all cell lines used in your study. Please add this information to ‘Cell lines and Reagents’ subsection.

#R: We have added the exact catalogue numbers for all cell lines in line 126.

6. Please note that the Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study (individual cell measurements etc.) and therefore saying ‘Not applicable’ is not sufficient in this section. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

• The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]

• The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

• The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

• The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].

#R: We have corrected the statement about the data availability according to the comment.
7. Initials of all Authors must be used in the ‘Authors’ Contributions’ section. Currently, you are missing ZH, MZ, and YZ initials.

Furthermore, please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Currently, the contributions of author Qinghua Xia do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their names from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead. Please note that any changes in the list of authors requires the completion of the “Change in authorship” form.

#R: We have added the contributions of ZH, MZ and YZ in the ‘Authors’ Contributions’ section. Thank you for pointing out the problem.

8. In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

#R: We have added the descriptions in ‘Funding’ section according to the comment.

9. Please remove the ‘Wei_Figure legends-R2.docx’ document from the Submission. The Figure legends should be placed within the main Manuscript text, after the References, under ‘Figure legends’ heading.

#R: We have made the corrections according to the comment.

10. Please add citation to Figure 5b within the main Manuscript text.

#R: We have added citation to Figure 5b according to the comment. In line306
11. Please add scale bar to the following Figures – 2b, 3d, 5a, 6c and 7.

#R: We have added scale bars according to the comment.

12. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.