Author’s response to reviews

Title: Secretion of fibronectin by human pancreatic stellate cells promotes chemoresistance to gemcitabine in pancreatic cancer cells

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Author’s response to reviews:

Comment 1. Any manuscript submitted to a BioMed Central journal must be original and the manuscript, or substantial parts of it, must not be under consideration by any other journal. We note that the current submission contains textual overlap with other previously published works. Please re-write these sentences and phrases in your own words to ensure no overlap. There is overlap in the Methods section; please ensure that you summarize the methods and cite the source. There is 9% overlap with: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24642618 There is 29% overall overlap with other publications.

Response: We humbly disagree with the Editor’s observations regarding textual overlap. The above referred article has no textual overlap with the Methods sections as written in the submitted manuscript.

Comment 2. If human cell lines are used, authors are strongly encouraged to include the following information in their manuscript:

- The source of the cell line, including when and from where it was obtained
- Whether the cell line has recently been authenticated and by what method
- Whether the cell line has recently been tested for mycoplasma contamination

Further information is available from the International Cell Line Authentication Committee (ICLAC). We recommend that authors check the NCBI database for misidentification and contamination of human cell lines. Please include the sources of all cell lines and their catalogue numbers.

Response: We have now updated the methods sections accordingly, page 5, lines 114-119.

Comment 3. Please confirm whether any of the cell lines required ethics approval for their use and include a statement in the Ethics approval and consent to participate section.
Comment 4. The 'Consent for publication' section covers manuscripts that contain any individual person’s data in any form (including individual details, images or videos), for which consent to publish must be obtained from that person, or in the case of children, their parent or legal guardian. If your manuscript does not contain any individual person’s data, please state “Not applicable” in this section.

Comment 5. 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. If no specific funding was received for this study, please clearly indicate this in the Funding section. Response to Comment 3, 4 and 5: Declarations sections has been updated accordingly.