Author’s response to reviews

Title: microRNA-21 promotes breast cancer proliferation and metastasis by targeting LZTFL1

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Version: 3 Date: 14 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for providing us an opportunity to revise the manuscript. We appreciate reviewers for their positive comments and constructive critiques. We revised the manuscript and listed our point-to-point response to reviewers’ comments in the rebuttal letter.
We would like to submit this revised manuscript to BMC Cancer, and hope it is acceptable for publication. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below. Thanks again and I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

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Point by point Response

Menha Swellam (Reviewer 1):
Comments: Accepted manuscript.
Answer: Thank you.

Prasant Yadav, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2):
Comments: Manuscript can be accept in present format.
Answer: Thank you.

Hailin Tang (Reviewer 3):
Comments: Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.
Xiaochun Sun (Reviewer 4):

1. Comments: Did the authors examine the miR-21 expression level in tumor issues from breast cancer patients and LZTFL1 mRNA level in both patients and human breast cancer cell lines?

Answer: Thank you for your comments.

(1) Though we did not examine the miR-21 level in tumor tissues from breast cancer patients, we obtained meaningful information from database. By using Oncomine platform, we found that miR-21 level is higher in invasive breast cancer tissue from TCGA database, relative to its level in normal breast tissues. Survival analysis also indicated that high level of miR-21 is related to poor outcome for breast cancer patients. Thus, we provided these data as supplementary figure (Figure S1), and the corresponding description of the results was showed in manuscript page 11, lines 25-34.

(2) In our present research, we proved that miR-21 regulates the protein translational level of LZTFL1, by using luciferase reporter assay and western blot assay. So we did not focus on the mRNA level of LZTFL1 in breast cancer patients and cell lines.

2. Comments: In Fig 6f, the result confused me that there is no difference between tumor size from different group. Maybe there is a label error. Most figures are blurry, please change to quality figure.

Answer: Thank you for your advice. We have adjusted all the figures to reach higher quality. According to your comment, we used red arrows in Fig 6f to indicate metastatic tumors. The result showed that the number of metastatic nodules is increased in miR-21 overexpressing group, compared with control. However, there is no obvious difference between tumor size from the two groups.

3. Comments: Page13, lines1, please revise "β-catenin" NOT "β-canetin". Page12, lines2, The blank should follow the comma.

Answer: Thank you for your reminder. We changed "β-canetin" to "β-catenin" (Page 13, lines 39), and add a blank following the comma (Page 12, lines 44).
4. Comments: Page 9, line 58, please provide the link of MIRDB.

Answer: Thank you for your advice. We provided the link of MIRDB (Page 10, lines 25).

Response to Editorial Policies:

We have read the journal’s Submission Guidelines and revised our manuscript. We changed the style of our reference list and table to meet the criteria of the journal, and adjusted the figures to reach higher quality.