Author’s response to reviews

Title: LncRNA CASC 2 is upregulated in aphthous stomatitis and predicts the recurrence

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor and reviewers,

Thanks a lot for your comments. Following your instructions, we took advantage of your and the reviewers’ constructive criticisms and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We have carefully revised the manuscript. Sorry for the mistake of “IL-8”. We actually measured IL-18 not IL-8.

Reviewer reports:
Sajna Ashraf, MDS (Reviewer 1): It is an interesting study. However, certain points need to be addressed.
1) there are a lot of abbreviations used through out the manuscript. Kindly define the abbreviation by spelling it out the first time and use the abbreviation for subsequent repetitions.
Response: We carefully revised the whole manuscript.
2) It is better to mention the adverse effects of Thalidomide, if any, experienced by the patients.
Response: This is a good suggestion. We added-“Mild paralysis, paresthesia and hypotension were observed in certain cases, while no severe adverse effects were observed.”

Lesley Ann Bergmeier, PhD (Reviewer 2): The authors present data that shows there is a significant difference between expression of the lnc for CASC2 in RAS patients versus HC.

This would have been an interesting paper but for a major error in the description of methodology and the Fig legends which brings into question what the authors have actually measured.

In the text the authors seem to be referring to measurements of IL-6 and IL-8 by Elisa.

However, there is confusion as to what has been measured.

Page 5 line 84 states that IL-8 is measured.

But on Page 5 line 86 the authors refer to IL-18 and give the Invitrogen Kit number for IL-18.
Throughout most of the text the authors refer to IL-8, including page 6 line 110 where Fig2D is IL-8 but the Fig itself has IL-18 on the vertical axis.

So, what has been measured, IL-8 or IL-18?

In its present form the paper cannot be accepted.

The authors must make clear what has been measured.

Response: We are so sorry for the mistake, it should be IL-18. We corrected the whole manuscript. Thanks for your reviewing and comments.

Minor points:
CASC2 should be written in full (cancer susceptibility gene2).
Response: Revised. Thanks.

Discussion: there is evidence that CASC2 inhibits autophagy- this should be discussed (Quin et al 2018 RSC)
Response: Do you mean the reference below? We cannot find any reference CASC2 authored by Quin. We added this reference. Thanks a lot.

Thank you very much for your effort on our behalf. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,