

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

November 23, 2014



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13786-review.doc).

Title: NG2 overexpression in hepatocellular carcinoma predicts poor prognosis

Author: Le-Le Lu, Jing Sun, Jie-Juan Lai, Yan Jiang, Lei-Da Zhang, Lian-Hua Bai

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13786

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reviewer 1 code: 00068107

The reviewer's comments : The references are not appropriate, relevant, and updated.

The authors' Answer: According to your comment, we have replaced inappropriate, irrelevant, and dated references with the latest related ones. Furthermore, we have carefully rechecked and corrected the style of the references according to the requirement of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

(2) Reviewer 2 code: 00068723

The reviewer's comment 1: This study clearly showed a strong correlation between overexpression of NG2 and poor prognosis of HCC. The presented data were reasonable and understandable. A new role of NG2 in HCC was clearly presented. Discussion would make more value of this study regarding the mechanism of up-regulation of NG2 in invasion of HCC. Were there any speculation on the relation between NG2 and proteins involved in metastasis such as integrin and matrix metalloproteases? Were there any reports on signaling pathway from NG2 to cell proliferation and differentiation?

The authors' Answer: Thank you for your instructive suggestions. We are sorry for not describing the mechanism of up-regulation of NG2 in invasion of HCC, as well as any speculation on the relation between NG2 and proteins involved in metastasis such as integrin and matrix metalloproteases. And there are many reports on signaling pathway from NG2 to cell proliferation and differentiation. According to your helpful advice, we have rewritten these two parts in the section of discussion with red underline (line 11-12). Thank you again.

The reviewer's comment 2: Figure 2. The authors say NG2 was up-regulated in tumor of HCC than non-tumor. Figure 2 A and C showed down-regulation of NG2.

The authors' Answer: Thank you for your careful work. I have corrected mistakes you pointed out in the figure 2.

(3) Reviewer 3 code: 02860622

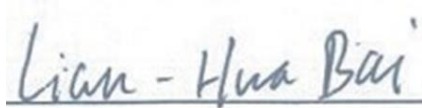
The reviewer's comment : congratulation for this nice study. I hope these results will be confirmed by a prospective study.

The authors' Answer: Thank you for your valuable advice. Based on the previous study, we will further confirm the relationship between NG2 overexpression in hepatocellular carcinoma and poor prognosis by a prospective study according to your thoughtful comments.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lian-Hua Bai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

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