

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

August 25, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17678-review.doc).

Title: Contactin 1: A potential therapeutic target and biomarker in gastric cancer

Author: De-Hu Chen, Ji-Wei Yu, Bo-Jian Jiang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17678

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

1 Format has been updated

We have revised the manuscript carefully according to the comments from reviewers. All changes made to the text are in red so that they may be easily identified. We hope that the revision could be acceptable, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

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

(1) Reviewer 1

Answer 1:

We greatly appreciate your warm reminder and constructive suggestion. According to your suggestions, we checked and corrected these errors in this manuscript such as official symbol for genes and gene names, and inserted several colloquial names where they should be. Furthermore, to understand the relation between environment and CNTN1, we discussed the molecular pathological epidemiology (MPE) approach in this manuscript (page 8-9).

Thanks again for your helpful comments.

(2) Reviewer 2

Answer 2:

Thanks very much for your beneficial comments. CNTN1 has been the focus of investigations on its function in the nervous system. Interestingly, several recent studies have revealed that CNTN1 also played an important role in cancer progression. Notably, CNTN1 was demonstrated to promote the invasion and metastasis of gastric cancer. And regarding the structure of the manuscript, we greatly appreciate your outstanding and helpful suggestions.

With the kind help of Dr. Tajima (the expert in this interesting field, Showa University, Tokyo, Japan), we revised the manuscript. The title: "Contactin 1: A potential therapeutic target and biomarker in gastric cancer" may be more appropriate. Furthermore, based on your constructive suggestion, we employed a more rational structure, starting from biology-biochemistry of CNTN1 in non-cancer disease, moving to cancer and then to gastric cancer as indicated in this manuscript.

Regarding the English language of this article, this manuscript was revised by a professional English language editing company (American Journal Experts).

In addition, we are very sorry about several inappropriate statements. For example "Despite these, limited success has been achieved in prevention of advanced GC, and most patients with GC are confirmed at advanced stage worldwide, due mainly to the absence of applicable biomarkers detected by simple and effective technique, thus missing the optimal time for curative surgery.", which was

revised as the sentence "Despite these findings, limited success has been achieved in the prevention of advanced GC, and most patients with GC are diagnosed at an advanced stage worldwide due mainly to the absence of adequate and appropriate screening that would identify gastric cancer in early stages, causing the optimal window for curative surgery to be missed. However, tumor biomarkers, such as the auxiliary analysis of disease-related indicators, have drawn increased attention over the years." in this manuscript (page 13). And other similar inappropriate statements were also revised.

As for the terminology and the meaning of a predictive biomarker and a prognostic biomarker, As reported, the expression of CNTN1 was elevated in the primary lesion than that in the adjacent normal mucosa tissue, and negatively correlated with the survival of cancer patient. Therefore, CNTN1 may be not only a predictive biomarker but also a prognostic biomarker. However, considering few studies of the involvement of CNTN1 in cancer, more investigations are required to evaluate the roles of CNTN1 in cancer.

Thanks again for your helpful comments.

(3) Reviewer 3

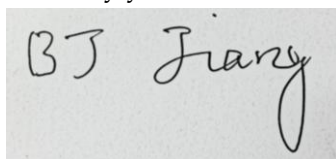
Answer 3

No questions were put forward. We thank you very much for your approval of this manuscript.

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 black ink on a light gray background. The signature consists of the initials 'BJ' followed by the name 'Jiang' in a cursive script.

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