

Dear Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "*MicroRNA-320a suppresses tumor progression by targeting PBX3 in gastric cancer and is downregulated by DNA methylation*" (Manuscript NO: 48527). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. We have sent the manuscript to a language editing company to improve the article for language and style. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Reviewer #1:

Comments: Very interesting study. Since the mechanism underlying miR-320a' s downregulation and it's role in gastric cancer are not clear, the authors designed this study and try to determine it's expression and biological functions in gastric cancer. The aim of the study is clear. The sample size is big, and the methods are very clear. The figures and tables provided interesting results. However, 1 the figures are provided in low resolution. Please update the figures. 2 The discussion is short. It requires a revision, and make it more deeper. 3 Overall, the manuscript is well written. However, some minor language polishing should be corrected.

Response: Thanks for your positive comments. As suggested, we have updated the figures and added some content in the "discussion" section. Futhermore, we have sent the manuscript to a language editing company to improve the article for language and style.

Reviewer #2:

Comments: Excellent study about the expression and biological functions of miR-320a in GC. And the the underlying molecular mechanism of miR-320a was well investigated. I love to read this kind of papers! I have no specific comments, the results are very detail, and figures are excellent! Only the authors should take attention about some minor spelling mistakes. Good work!

Response: Thanks for your positive comments. We have carefully checked the manuscript and corrected the errors accordingly.

Reviewer #3:

Comments: Interesting study. However, it's too long. Please shorten it. English should be revised.

Response: Thanks for your positive comments. We have carefully checked the manuscript and corrected the errors accordingly. Futhermore, we have sent the manuscript to a language editing company to improve the article for language and style.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the

correction will meet with approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.