

Dear editor,

Thanks for your valuable comments, which helped us to improve the quality of the article. Our responses to the reviewers' comments are described below in a point-to-point manner. Appropriated changes, suggested by the reviewers, has been introduced to the manuscript (highlighted within the document).

**Reviewer #1:**

1. What do Authors mean when they affirm that Rab5a level increased with the progression of GC? What do they mean for “progression”?

**In our manuscript, the “progression” means the cancer development to the up stage of GC histological classification.**

2. With only a major criticism about statistical methods: indeed the analyses reported in Table 1 cannot be performed by t test. Authors must use a test for categorical variables such as chi square.

**The reviewer has made very good points here. Indeed, in table 1, a test of chi square was used in the statistical analysis and p value has been added in table 1.**

**Science editor:**

1. The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words.

**We retitled the article as: Rab5a enhanced epidermal growth factor-stimulated proliferation of gastric cancer cells.**

2. The “Author Contributions” section is missing. Please provide the author contributions.

**The section of “Author contributions” was added in the article.**

3. The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).

**The approved grant application form was uploaded in the submission system.**

4. The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure

that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

**The original pictures documented in PowerPoint were uploaded in the submission system.**

5. The “Article Highlights” section is missing. Please add the “Article Highlights” section at the end of the main text.

**We had put the “Article Highlights” section in the front of our manuscript. Now we put the “Article Highlights” part at the end of the main text.**

Sincerely,

Xingfang Xie