

21 July, 2021

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript: 68080

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma, Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

Enclosed is a revised manuscript by Kinugasa, et al. entitled " Circulating tumor DNA dynamics analysis in a xenograft mouse model with esophageal squamous cell carcinoma". Please note that we have also provided a highlighted manuscript as a supplemental file to indicate for the Editor and Reviewer the changes that have been made. The following is a point-by-point response to the helpful and insightful comments from the Editor and Reviewer:

Response to the comments of Editor and Reviewer:

Comment 1) The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. One self-citation (Kinugasa H, Nouse K, Ako S, Dohi C, Matsushita H, Matsumoto K, Kato H, Okada H. Liquid biopsy of bile for the molecular diagnosis of gallbladder cancer. *Cancer Biol Ther* 2018; 19(10): 934-938 [PMID: 29580156 PMCID: PMC6300345 DOI: 10.1080/15384047.2018.1456604]) was removed to keep the self-citation rate below 10%. Instead, we added other latest literature (Alix-Panabieres C, Pantel K. Liquid Biopsy: From Discovery to Clinical Application. *Cancer Discov* 2021; 11(4): 858-873 [PMID: 33811121 DOI: 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-20-1311]).

Comment 2) Core-tip audio is missing.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We attached Core-tip audio.

Comment 3) References should be updated to recent literature.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. As we mentioned comment 1), we updated and added a new reference. One self-citation (Kinugasa H, Nouse K, Ako S, Dohi C, Matsushita H, Matsumoto K, Kato H, Okada H. Liquid biopsy of bile for the molecular diagnosis of gallbladder cancer. *Cancer Biol Ther* 2018; 19(10): 934-938 [PMID: 29580156 PMCID: PMC6300345 DOI: 10.1080/15384047.2018.1456604]) was removed. Instead, we added other latest literature (Alix-Panabieres C, Pantel K. Liquid Biopsy: From Discovery to Clinical Application. *Cancer Discov* 2021; 11(4): 858-873 [PMID: 33811121 DOI: 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-20-1311]).

Comment 4) Figure legends should be written per journal standard.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We revised figure legends per journal

standard.

Comment 5) Manuscript format should be updated per journal standard

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We updated manuscript per journal standard.

Comment 6) Copyright License Agreement and Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form are missing.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We added Copyright License Agreement and Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.

Comment 7) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. I apologize for missing in the reference. We added PMID and DOI numbers.

Comment 8) Institutional Review Board Approval Form or Document is not required, as no human study was involved.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We deleted Institutional Review Board Approval Form or Document.

Comment 9) 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.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We attached a PowerPoint file.

Comment 10) The author(s) must include the keyword “esophageal squamous cell carcinoma” in the manuscript title.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. We added the keyword “esophageal squamous cell carcinoma” in the manuscript title.

Comment 11) Before final acceptance, uniform presentation should be used for figures showing the same or similar contents; for example, “Figure 1 Pathological changes of atrophic gastritis after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F: ...; G: ...”.

Response to the comment: We appreciated this comment. As we answered comment 4), we revised figure legends per journal standard.

We have made additional efforts to address the important concerns raised by the editor and reviewer. We believe that the manuscript is much improved and appreciate all the helpful comments made by the editor and reviewers. We hope you find the revised manuscript suitable for publication.

Sincerely,

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