

List of Responses

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

We are truly grateful for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Integrated network analysis of transcriptomic and protein-protein interaction data in the taurine-treated hepatic stellate cells" (Manuscript NO: 44829). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Responds to the reviewer's comments:

Reviewer #1:

1. Some typo errors are existed.

Response: Thank you for your careful work. According to the comments from you and the editors, we polished the manuscript with a professional assistance in writing, conscientiously.

2. As there are many abbriviations within the manuscript, it is recommened to make a list of full names for these abbriviations in order to help the understanding of the authors.

Response: Thank you for your kind suggestion. According to your comments, we have added a list of full names for the abbreviations.

Reviewer #2:

(1) No biological data at the begining.

Response: We are sorry for our negligence of biological data at the beginning. It is really true as Reviewer commented. The present work is based on the previous experiments. We have performed numbers of researches to investigate the effects of taurine on hepatic stellate cells, and then we neglect to study the biological data in the present work. Thank you for your valuable suggestion, which is of important guiding significance to our researches.

(2) No validation data by using qPCR

Response: Thank for your valuable advice. Due to the limited of money and experimental conditions, we would conduct the validate experiments in the future, including the differentially expressed genes and the p38 MAPK-JNK-Caspase9/8/3 pathway by using blockers via the method of PCR and Western blot, and further investigations on animal models or clinical patients *in vivo*.

(3) The illustration of Figure 3 could add heatmap of two groups clustered by KEGG pathway.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We have added the heatmap of enriched terms across the DEGs, colored by p-values.

(4) Discuss about difference between active and quiescent HSCs.

Response: We have added the discussion of the difference between active and quiescent HSCs, which is marked red in the paper.

(5) Explain the reason why authour study taurine effects on quiescent HSCs rather than activated HSCs.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Because the number of HSC increased significantly during the development of liver fibrosis, and the HSC is not only the activated HSC, but also the quiescent HSCs. In previous studies, we have study the taurine effects on activated HSCs from rats. And due to the limitations of experimental traditions, we will study taurine effects on activated human HSCs in the future.

Reviewer #3:

(1) Some abbreviations in the text without explanation.

Response: : Thank you for your careful work. According to your comments, we have added the explanation and make a list of full names for the abbreviations.

(2) Few scattered data about statistical analysis. You should make a separate section for statistical analysis, illustrating the methods and software used.

Response: Thank you for your kind suggestions. According to your comments, we have added a separate section for statistical analysis in the paper.

Special thanks to you for your good comments.

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. And here we did not list the changes but marked in red in revised 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.