

February 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7029-review.doc).

Title: Establish orthotopic pancreatic cancer mouse model: cells suspended and injected in Matrigel

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7029

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

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) **Comment 1 from Reviewer 1:** earlier publications (Partecke et al) also used Matrigel as a support for injections of pancreas cancer cell lines. This work should be discussed in the discussion and results compared with the results of the current publication. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good comment. We did read the paper of Partecke et al. (Eur Surg Res 2011; 47:98-107). We have quoted this paper (ref. 26) and discussed the difference of our study from Partecke et al. Seen in line 334-344.

(2) **Comment 2 from Reviewer 1:** in the material & methods sections, the follow-up of mice should be discussed: what were the signs investigated, what were the endpoints: when were mice sacrificed. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good comment. We have explained the time when the mice were sacrificed for pathological examination. Seen in line 184-184, 355-356.

(3) **Comment 3 from Reviewer 1:** The authors state that Matrigel has no negative effect on pancreas cancer cells. However, I'm convinced that Matrigel has effects on tumor cell behavior. The authors should investigate the effect of MATrigel on adhesion, migration, invasion and proliferation of the cancer cell line. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good comment. We admitted it was not proper to state that "Matrigel has no negative effect on pancreas cancer cells" because we have not investigated the proper effect of Matrigel on the biological behavior of cancer cell line. We only observed that the Pan02 cells could adhere, proliferate and migrate in the Matrigel drip. So we have modulated the argument in the abstracts (seen in line 51-52) and discussion (seen in line 412-413) in our manuscript.

(4) **Comment 4 from Reviewer 1:** In the tumor models, the authors should report on endocrine and exocrine pancreas function. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good suggestion. It is an interesting and important topic to measure the changes of pancreas function in orthotopic pancreatic cancer in C57BL/6 mice. We will take the blood glucose levels and measure the volume of pancreatic juice and output of amylase, etc. in the future.

(5) **Comment 1 from Reviewer 2:** Low temperature should be mentioned in detail. 0C? 4C? 20C? Room temperature? **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's comment. We have specified the "low temperature" to "ice-cold" in the part of MATERIALS AND METHODS.

(6) **Comment 2 from Reviewer 2:** Also dose should be mentioned in detail. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's comment. We have elucidated the volume of Pan02 suspended in Matrigel or PBS we injected in the parts of MATERIALS AND METHODS, seen line 145, 174.

(7) **Comment 1 from Reviewer 3:** English proof is required. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's suggestions. We have uploaded our manuscript to the professional English language editing companies to polish the English of our manuscript. They have sent a recommendation letter to the editor.

(8) **Comment 2 from Reviewer 3:** Description of statistical analysis is required in Materials and

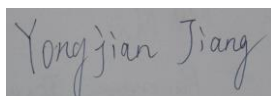
Methods. **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good comment. We have listed the statistical method in the part of MATERIALS AND METHODS.

(9) **Comment 3 from Reviewer 3:** Figure captions should be more specific to describe figures in details. For example, what is "margin" in Fig. 2 and what do colors represent in Fig. 7 **Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's good comment. We have added necessary information in the Figure captions according to the reviewer's comment. Seen in line 528, 554, 557-558.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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