

Friday, January 24, 2014

Dear Dr. Ma,

We thank you and the reviewers for your thoughtful comments on our manuscript "Glioblastoma Stem Cells: Molecular Characteristics and Therapeutic Implications" (Manuscript number 8670) that we recently submitted to *World Journal of Stem Cells*. We have addressed all of the reviewers' concerns and we believe that our manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal.

We have introduced the following modifications in the manuscript at the suggestion of the reviewers:

Reviewer #1:

One minor concern, i.e., the authors proposed that "TGF- $\beta$  signaling promotes GSC self-renewal through regulation of distinct mechanisms"(page 10), and then they also proposed that "Bone Morphogenic Protein (BMP) signaling functions as a differentiation signal"( page 10). I understand that there is nothing wrong with these claims, but since BMP is a member of TGF- $\beta$  family, shouldn't authors add some sentences to explain this seemingly paradoxical phenomenon?

We have introduced new text (highlighted) in the first paragraph of page 12 to address this concern.

Reviewer #2:

Page 5 paragraph 1 requires references. I also suggest an additional figure that summarizes the contribution of the different signaling pathways that were discussed in the manuscript.

We have added new references to Page 5 paragraph 1.

We have also introduced a new Table (Table 1) summarizing important signaling pathways in glioblastoma stem cell biology.

Furthermore, we made adjustments in the formatting at the journal's request. References and typesetting were corrected.

Again, we thank you for reviewing our manuscript and hope that after these modifications it will be suitable for publication in your journal. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Dimitris G. Placantonakis MD, PhD,

NYU School of Medicine,

530 First Avenue, Skirball 8R,

New York, NY 10016, United States.

Email: [Dimitris.Placantonakis@nyumc.org](mailto:Dimitris.Placantonakis@nyumc.org)

Telephone: +1-212-263-2441

Fax: +1-212-263-8042