Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 11837-review.doc).

Title: TWIST1 correlates with poor differentiation and progression in gastric adenocarcinoma via elevating FGFR2 expression

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11837

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:
Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer point to point.

Reviewer 1.
(1)**Question**: In the abstract, BACKGROUNDS should be put before AIM.
Answer: Thank you for your comments. We have combined the BACKGROUNDS and AIM according to the standard of abstract of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*
(2 **Question**: RT-PCR should be qPCR.
Answer: Thank you for your advice. RT-PCT was changed to qPCR in new version.
(3) **Question**: The part of "Introduction" is too long, and especially the first paragraph is not closely related to the main idea of this manuscript.
Answer:Thank you for your advice. We have revised and simplyfied part of first paragraph.
(4) **Question**: In the Results, "Figure 1A and B showed Twist1 expression in well/middle and poorly differentiated gastric adenocarcinomas, whereas Figure 1 C and D represented FGFR2 expression in well/middle and poorly differentiated gastric adenocarcinoma, respectively." is redundant, because they had been presented in figure legends.
Answer: Thank you for the advice. We have deleted this sentence in the new manuscript.
(5) **Question**: In the Results, "MKN-7 and MKN-28 were well differentiated adenocarcinoma cells; SGC-7901 was middle differentiated adenocarcinoma, and SNU-1 and SNU-16 were poorly differentiated gastric adenocarcinomas." is also redundant, because they had been described before.
Answer: Thank you for the advice. We have deleted this sentence in the new manuscript.
(6) **Question**: In Figure 3, the authors should labeled B with SUN-1, and C with MKN28. Due to different cells, D should be clearly labeled or be presented separately.
Answer: Thank you for pointing this. In the new manuscript, we have revised Figure 3 according to this instruction.
(7) **Question**: "In gastric cancer, Twist1 had been identified to involve in gastric cancer cell lines." is puzzling, the authors should state clearly.
Answer:Thank you for pointing that. We have stated it clearly in the new manuscript.

(8) **Question**: In Figure 4A, the difference between "Twist1 + siFGFR2" and "control" should

be presented.

Answer: Thank you for your advice. The difference between "Twist1 + siFGFR2" and "control" is not significant, which is labeled in the new Figure 4A.

(9) **Question**: In Figure 4 legend, the authors indicated "MKN28 cells", however, they presented as SUN-1. The authors should explain it.

Answer: Thank you for pointing this terrible mistake. Actually, MKN28 cells were the selected cell model. We have corrected the careless mistake and are very sorry for our negligence.

(10) **Question**: In Figure 4G, FGFR2 expression did not change accordingly when Twist1 expression was up-regulated, which did not related with foregoing results. In addition, the group "Twist1 + scrambled RNA" should be performed.

Answer:Thank you for pointing this. We are sorry for selecting a non-representative figure of FGFR2. We further proved this result for another 3 independent experiments, then qunatified and analyzed all data. The statistical data were shown in Figure 4G.

(11) **Question**: The part of "Discussion" should be further strengthened to be more appropriate and concise.

Answer:Thank you for pointing that. We have revised the part of "Discussion" in the new manuscript. Thank you again for your professional advice.

Reviewer 2

(i)**Question**: To investigate the relationship between TWIST1 and FGFR2 expression, the authors divided gastric adenocarcinoma samples into low- and high-expression groups based on TWIST1 mRNA expression levels. Thereafter, they compared FGFR2 mRNA levels between the two groups (Fig. 3A). This is scientifically incorrect. As the authors have quantitative data of each sample, they should determine the relationship by linear regression analysis using Pearson's test.

Answer: Thank you for your professional advice.We have re-analyzed the quantitive data of qPCR by Pearson's test. The result of Pearson's test were shown in Figure 3A.

(ii) **Question**: Many abbreviations are used in the present manuscript: RT-PCR, BSA, SDS-PAGE, PVDF, ECL, MTT, and DMSO. They should be spelled out as specified in the Instructions for Authors of the journal.

Answer: Thank you for this professional comment. We have spelled out full name of abbreviations when they first came in the new manuscript.

(iii) **Question:** The manuscript requires linguistic revision by a native English speaker.

Answer: Thank you for your advice. We have the manuscript revised by a native English speaker and a professional language-editing company.

Sincerely yours,
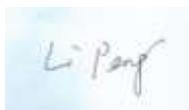
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