

Answering Reviewers and Editor WJCO

To the editor of WJCO

2019-12-12

Dear Sir/Madame,

Thank you for your and the reviewer's valuable comments and feedback on our review article entitled "**Roles of Cell Fusion, Hybridization and Polyploid Cell Formation in Cancer Metastasis**" with manuscript-id: 51417.

The manuscript is revised according to your comments and all changes in the text are highlighted in red colour. We would like to reply to the comments from the reviewers, point by point, according to the following:

Reviewer 00070894

Comment 1 &2

Reply: We agree that more description is needed on how cell fusion contributes to tumour growth and metastasis. We have written more about this topic under a new heading "**How cell fusion promotes tumour progression**".

Comment 3:

Reply: Data on the clinical significance of cell fusion are limited. We present this topic with additional text under a new heading "**Cell fusion pathways as diagnostic and therapeutic targets**". This issue is also briefly discussed under the heading "**Clinical significance of polyploidization in cancer**".

Reviewer 00077340

Comment: "In chapter 'Cell fusion, polyploidization and cancer', the word PGCC shows up...etc"

Reply: PGCC is described in new text (red text).

Comment: "In chapter talking about TAM, the authors should insert some figures that explains relations between tumor cells and TAMs."

Reply: The main purpose of this article is to review the latest scientific findings on cell fusion and polyploidization. The role of macrophages as a fusion partner for cancer cells has been described in this article.

Specifically explaining the role of macrophages in tumour progression (independent of cell fusion) is reviewed in many publications and is not the purpose of this article. Therefore, we do not see the need to write about this topic in this review article.

Comment "Since the authors don't refer to the concrete therapeutic target of TAM, they should add some examples"

Reply: We agree. As mentioned in reply to previous reviewer, we present this topic with new text under the heading "**Cell fusion pathways as diagnostic and therapeutic targets**" and also briefly under the heading "**Clinical significance of polyploidization in cancer**". The article recommended by you is included.

Comment “In chapter Cell fusion, polyploidization and cancer, a comma is needed between 1911 and a German”

Reply: the text is corrected according to your advice.

Reviewer 00068720

Comment “It is recommended to provide more evidence on the etiology, diagnosis and prognosis in clinical evidence, provide more references, or summary tables.”

Reply: We agree. As mentioned in reply to previous reviewers, we present this topic with new text under the heading “**Cell fusion pathways as diagnostic and therapeutic targets**”. This issue is also briefly discussed under the heading “**Clinical significance of polyploidization in cancer**”.

Reviewer 02577402

Comment 1 “Citation : When citing others’ work, the reference should be immediately follow the sentence regarding the work”

Reply: The citations are controlled and corrected according to your feedback.

Comment 2 “Abbreviations: The authors used a lot of abbreviations, some of which are known but others are not known by most readers.”

Reply: the abbreviations are corrected.

Comment 3 “In the section of “Clinical significance of polyploidization in cancer”, “The PGCC’s are able to overcome---” should be “The PGCCs are able to overcome---”.

Reply: the text is corrected.

Reviewer 03465354

No comments to reply

Reviewer 00053419

No comments to reply

Reviewer 02683307

No comments to reply

Thank you once again for your positive and constructive comments. We hope that our answers and revision of article meets your requirements.

With best Wishes

Ivan Shabo MD PhD
Senior consultant and associated professor of surgery
Department of molecular medicine and surgery
Karolinska Institute
Stockholm, Sweden

Dear Dr. Jia-Ping Yan

Thank you for your feedback on our article (manuscript ID: 51417). We would like to respond to your comments as follows (all changes in the manuscript associated with this revision are marked as red text with yellow background):

- **Language Certificate:** the majority of authors (TL, ST, JH, TS and JP) are native English speakers and have several times proof read and edited the manuscript. Dr. James Hulit (JH) has also issued a letter on this. The letter is included with this revision. The other (IS, AL and JS) writers have very good experiences in communicating and writing scientific articles in English. In addition, Professor Joar Svanvik was previously editor at the British Journal of Surgery and has extensive experience in editing and writing scientific medical articles.
- **Statement about the conflict of interest** is added to the manuscript. The conflict of interest document is included to this revision.
- Text for **Core tip** is added to the manuscript.
- The **audio core** tip is recorded and added according to your instruction.
- The **headings** are corrected according to your instructions.
- **Citations in the main text** are corrected according to your instruction (superscripted in square brackets without spaces).
- **PMID and DOI** numbers are added to the references.
- **The figures** are added as movable and editable PPT files.

With best wishes

Ivan Shabo MD PhD
Senior consultant and associated professor of surgery
Department of molecular medicine and surgery
Karolinska Institute
Stockholm, Sweden