

Editorial Office  
*World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Dear Editor,

The manuscript entitled “ELF is involved in of hepatic stellate cell by regulating PI3K/Akt signaling” has been revised according to the insightful suggestions of the reviewers. Enclosed please find our replies to the reviewers` comments point-by-point.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

To editor:

**We have rewrite the manuscript title. The new title of the manuscript is “Embryonic liver fordin is involved in glucose glycolysis of hepatic stellate cell by regulating PI3K/Akt signaling”**

To reviewers:

Point-by-Point Reply to the Reviewer’s Comments (the reviewers’ comments are in **bold**):

Reviewed by 02763827

1. The authors should have the English-editing to help this manuscript better for reading. Too many typos were found in this manuscript. Such as HSCs(Hepatic stellate cells), ECM(Extracellular matrix )...etc.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have rechecked the wording, spelling and grammar.

2. The authors should not provide the information about “Institutional review board statement: This work was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology.”, if they did not execute the human study.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have delete the information about “Institutional review board statement This work was approved by the Ethics Committee of Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology.”

3. ELF is not the common abbreviation for any research field. Please use the embryonic liver fordin instead of ELF alone in the title.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have rewrite the manuscript title.

4. Please provide the reference about the description in the introduction, such as “Our previous study demonstrated that ELF is involved in HSC activation in vivo and in vitro. First, we found that ELF expression was

increased in HSCs in a mouse model of liver fibrosis induced by CCL injection.”.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. You can find our previous study in reference 9. (Wang Z, Liu F, Tu W, et al. Embryonic liver fodrin involved in stellate cell activation and formation of regenerative nodule in liver cirrhosis. J Cell Mol Med 2012;)

5. Is the Q-HSCs as the quiescent HSCs? Please use the appropriate abbreviation in the beginning of the term.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have replaced “Q-HSCs” with “quiescent HSCs”

6. Please provide the information of manufactory about the siRNA. The authors showed only the A&B Applied Biosystems.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have prepared three ELF-siRNA, and *ELF siRNA s74307* was selected for subsequent experiment because of its greatest efficacy.

7. Please re-write the sentence in the materials and methods, which showed “Liver specimens mice were fixed in 10% formalin, embedded with paraffin and then sliced into sections.”. “GAPDH was used as control.”.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have rewrite the sentences you mentioned.

8. The figures were not audience-friendly. For example, the Figure 1D should be divided to Figure 1D and 1E. Figure 1D was alpha-SMA and Figure 1E was collagen. Figure 2A, Figure 3A, Figure 4D, Figure 5B, Figure 5C, and Figure 5D were needed too.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have edited the figures as your kind reminder

#### **Reviewed by 03536410**

1. Similar results have been published by authors previously (Wang Z et al., J Cell Mol Med 2012; 16:118–28). For example: ELF expression is upregulated in fibrotic liver (Fig 1). A remarkable reduction in SMA and collagen 1 expression were observed in the ELF-siRNA treated HSCs (Fig 4D).

Our answer: Thanks for the suggestion. In this study, the mouse models of liver fibrosis were newly regenerated because further research were needed. We provide the similar results in order to make sure that the fibrotic models are generated successfully.

2. How about the expression of GLUT1 and MCT4 in ELF siRNA treated cells? How about the expression level of lactate in ELF siRNA treated cells?

Our answer: Thanks for the suggestion. We have evaluated the expression of GLUT1, MCT4, the expression level of lactate in ELF siRNA treated cells. The results were showed in the edited manuscript.

3. How about the expression of total AKT?

Our answer: Thanks for the comment. We have evaluated the the expression of total AKT,which was showed in the edited manuscript.

4. In order to confirm these results, authors should use the mice knockout of ELF to construct the fibrotic model.

Our answer: Thanks for the comment.It is really a good idea to use the mice knockout of ELF to construct the fibrotic model,but the wide type mice model of liver fibrosis also showed scientific significance in this study.In our further reseach of ELF,we will consider of using knockout mice.

Best wishes,

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