

March 21, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2336-review.doc).

**Title:** Propofol induces apoptosis and increases gemcitabine sensitivity in pancreatic cancer cells

**Author:** Qihang Du, Yanbing Xu, Mengyuan Zhang<sup>&</sup>, Peng Yun, Changyao He

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 2336

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

**reviewer 1:**

In this experimental study the Authors show that propofol induces apoptosis and increases in vitro gemcitabine sensitivity in pancreatic cancer cells by inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B activity. The manuscript is interesting, but requires minor revision. In the section Results, there are some sentences already said in Materials and Methods. In my opinion, the manuscript should be shortened in order to achieve a more easy reading.

**Reply::** We have shorten the parts.

**reviewer 2:**

① authors present gemcitabine as the sole treatment for pancreatic cancer, with poor effects on response rate and survival. since the publication of conroy et al. in the NEJM 2011, Folfirinox is now the reference, with a 2 fold increase of survival in comparison with gemcitabine.

**Reply::** The FOLFIRINOX regimen (bolus and infusional 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, irinotecan, and oxaliplatin) emerged as a new option in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer and a good performance status. As compared with gemcitabine, FOLFIRINOX was associated with a survival advantage, but had increased toxicity.

② the use of propranolol in clinical practice in combination with gemcitabine (infusion 1 day per week, 3 weeks per month) must probably be difficult to enhance.

Reply:: Though the use of propranolol in clinical practice in combination with gemcitabine must probably be difficult to enhance, however, our finding provides a new sight into propofol in cancer treatment and, suggesting that propofol not only can be an anesthesia agent which reduces pain but plays a important role of inhibiting the growth of pancreatic cancer cells in the therapy of pancreatic cancer patients.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

*Qihang Du*