

September 25, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5099-review.doc).

Title: Expression and Significance of Musashi-1 in Gastric Cancer and Precancerous Lesions

Authors: Rong-Guang Kuang, Yan Kuang, Qing-Feng Luo, Cheng-Jun Zhou, Rui Ji, Jian-Wen Wang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5099

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

Yes.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Comments from reviewers: Wang et al (<http://www.nature.com/bjc/journal/v105/n5/full/bjc2011287a.html>) and Yang et al (<http://cdmd.cnki.com.cn/Article/CDMD-10159-2008082616.htm>) have reported very similar results. The authors should cite these papers and discuss the differences between the present manuscript and reports by those authors.

Response: We appreciate your valuable comments. We have cited these papers and added the pertinent discussion in the revised manuscript. Wang et al. selected 10 cases of intestinal type GC taken from the transition area between malignancy and adjacent normal mucosa for full section analysis. They found that Musashi-1 was frequently expressed in both premalignant gastric lesions and invasive GC, however, the number of patients with premalignant gastric lesions in this study was low. They evaluated the expression of CD44,

Musashi-1 and CD133 mainly to study the associations between putative stem cell marker expression and the chemoresponsiveness.

In this study, we collected a large number of premalignant gastric lesions and emphasized the relationship between Musashi-1 and PCNA expression to explore proliferation activity diversity of Musashi-1 positive cells in the development of GC. We mainly compared Musashi-1 with proliferative antigens PCNA and clinicopathological parameters to determine their predictive significance in intestinal type GC. These findings may help in a better understanding of gastric carcinogenesis and early diagnosis.

(2) Comments from reviewers: The authors should note each panel in Figures1 and 2.

Response: Thank you for your good suggestion. Corresponding revisions have been made in the revised manuscript.

(3) Comments from reviewers: Because the total numbers of cases for each group is not big enough. The authors should consider whether the statistics power is strong enough when performing sub-group analysis. It seems that there are too many sub-groups used for statistics for the present case numbers.

Response: Thank you for your kind suggestions. We agree with you that the case number for each group is not big enough, therefore, further large-sized studies are required to validate the statistical power.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Yes.

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