

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



June 12, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10871 - Research report.doc).

Title: Hes1, an important gene for the activation of hepatic stellate cells, is regulated by Notch1 and TGF- β /BMP signaling

Author: Kai Zhang, Yan-Qiong Zhang, Wen-Bing Ai, Qing-Ting Hu, Qiao-Juan Zhang, Lin-Yan Wan, Xiao-Lian Wang, Chang-Bai Liu*, Jiang-Feng Wu*

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10871

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

(1) Answer the comments of the first specialist:

1. Materials and methods: Please restructure the subheading 'Transfection, Constructs and Luciferase Reporter Assay' to 'Constructs, Transfection and Luciferase Reporter Assay'

Answer: I have already adjusted the order.

2. Results: Please avoid phrasing the sentences like 'We next studied.....' or 'We next analyzed.....' repeatedly.

Answer: I have avoided these similar sentences.

3. Reference: Please reformat the citations with consistency in volume and issue numbers (if required). For example, compare ref#1 and #4.

Answer: I have modified them according to the format.

4. Figures and Legends: Fig 1A- Change the font color of slides (a, b, c, d) to white for better view and consistency. Fig 1C- In the bands showing a-SMA at day 0 and 1 are having different background compared to rest of the band in the same blot. The same happens with the E-cathedrin bands on day 3, 7 and 10. Why? Fig1D- Please incorporate a better resolution picture of Hes-1. Three bands do not seem to be in the same blot. Table 1- It will be better to print the primer sequences in Italics.

Answer: Fig 1A- I have changed the font color of slides (a, b, c, d) to white;

Fig 1C- These slides are PCR and the experimental data are true and credible. The bands showing a-SMA and E-cathedrin at day 0, 1, 3, 7 and 10 are in the same background.

Fig1D- We got the results from same experiment, just because Hes1 was a goat polyclonal anti-Hes1 and background was too deep, so we changed the exposure time in scanning.

Table 1- we have modified the primer sequences in Italics.

5. Discussion: In the last paragraph please correct to read as 'Nonetheless, it could reduce the effects of NICD1 on the expression of Hes1'.

Answer: about this part, I made appropriate adjustments on the basis of the expert advice after carefully

pondering.

(2) Answer the comments of the second specialist:

1. Not all readers are familiar with technical abbreviations, for example, in the INTRODUCTION, in the second paragraph appears TGF- β /BMP, I recommend that the first time that the abbreviation appears, must be preceded by what it means and then put the abbreviation in brackets, even in case of abbreviations conventionally accepted. This because of in the text appears a lot of abbreviations and for the reader could be easy to miss the sense of the text. If you preferred, I suggest to write a list of abbreviations and their mean after the abstract, I think that way helps to readers don't miss the sense of the text.

Answer: I have finished these and put them after the abstract.

2. REFERENCES: 2.1.- please, is important to cite the references according to instructions for authors provided by the journal. Many of them have a PMID and DOI. Pleased provide PubMed citation numbers to the reference list, e.g., PMID and DOI, which can be found at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed> and <http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/>, respectively. The numbers will be used in E-version of this journal. Example: Jung EM, Clevert DA, Schreyer AG, Schmitt S, Rennert J, Kubale R, Feuerbach S, Jung F. Evaluation of quantitative contrast harmonic imaging to assess malignancy of liver tumors: A prospective controlled two-center study. World J Gastroenterol 2007; 13: 6356-6364 [PMID: 18081224 DOI: 10.3748/wjg.13.6356] 2.2.- some references include a number between parentheses, you must omit it, is not necessary to provide it. Example: Choi SS, Diehl AM. Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transitions in the liver. Hepatology 2009, 50(6): 2007-13. DELATE NUMBER (6), and correct punctuation signs. After 2009 you put , and you must put ; Please verify that all references are write correctly.

Answer: I have modified them according to the format.

(3) Answer the comments of the third specialist:

About the language: have a great of language polishing.

Answer: I have modified the sentences one by one, but I am afraid that it is a little difficult to us polishing language to the degree of perfection because my native language is not English. So, we have set my manuscript to American Journal Experts: <http://www.aje.com>, the Certificate Verification Key is AAFA-0A6C-1347-3394-2233.

Except these, I added two references because the plasmids of pcDNA3-CA-ALK3 and pcDNA3-CA-ALK5 were gifts from Prof. Miyazono at Tokyo University and these two plasmids are very important to activate the BMP and TGF- β signaling pathway respectively.

20 Fujii M, Takeda K, Imamura T, Aoki H, Sampath TK, Enomoto S, Kawabata M, Kato M, Ichijo H, Miyazono

K. Roles of bone morphogenetic protein type I receptors and Smad proteins in osteoblast and chondroblast differentiation. Mol Biol Cell. 1999; 10: 3801-3813 [PMID: 10564272]

21 Nakao A, Imamura T, Souchelnytskyi S, Kawabata M, Ishisaki A, Oeda E, Tamaki K, Hanai J, Heldin CH, Miyazono K, ten Dijke P. TGF-beta receptor-mediated signalling through Smad2, Smad3 and Smad4. EMBO J. 1997; 16: 5353-5362 [PMID: 9311995]

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

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