

Rebuttal Letter

Dear Editor,

We were pleased to have an opportunity to revise our manuscript now entitled “Construction of esophageal cancer specific ceRNA network based on the miRNA, lncRNA and mRNA expression data” (36116). In revised manuscript, we have carefully considered reviewers’ comments and suggestions. As instructed, we have attempted to succinctly explain changes made in reaction to all comments. We reply to each comment in point-by-point fashion. We have color coded revised manuscript as **text**. The responses to the concerns raised by reviewers are below and are color coded as follows: a) Comments from editors or reviewers are shown as **text**; b) Our responses are shown as **text**.

The reviewers’ comments were very helpful overall, and we are appreciative of such constructive feedback on our original submission. After addressing the issues raised, we feel the quality of the paper is much improved.

Sincerely

Quancheng Kan

Reviewer: 1

Thanks for giving opportunity to me to review this article. Micro RNAs are novel and important proteins for cancer biology. There are restricted number of study about this topic in literature. Long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) is a novel kind of miRNAs that can be important to understand the cancer biology of Squamous cell cancer of the esophagus. It can be considered for publication after minor corrections;

1. why did you enroll the patients with breast cancer in this study, please clarify.

A: Thank you for noting this. We are very sorry for this mistake. We have corrected it and describe the specific source of the data in the Methods section of revision.

2. please discuss the importance of miRNAs in other cancer types in the discussion section.

A: We appreciate your insightful suggestions. We agree that it is better to provide more details about the important role of miRNAs in the Discussion section. We have reinforced the idea you expressed, adding some sentences to the Discussion section.

3. Reference 1 and 2 are same. Please control it, and also correct the other references according to the journal's rule.

A: Thank you for noting this. As you suggested, we corrected the references according to the journal's rule.

Reviewer: 2

The present study is very important and interesting, but authors should revise to publish.

1. Authors should write abbreviations to first place in abstract.

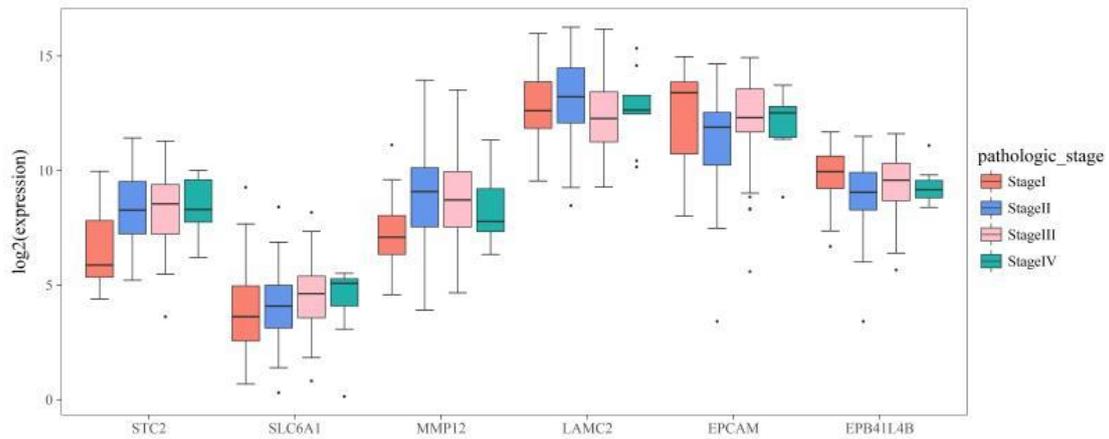
A: We appreciate your insightful suggestions. We have corrected it in the abstract section of revision.

2. Authors should show number of patients with 8 mRNA each other.

A: We appreciate your insightful suggestions. We have used mRNA data patients samples of esophageal ESCA for the 170 cases from TCGA database, and then divided into high and low groups according to the median of 85 cases.

3. Could you tell me the relationship between "TNM classification or recurrence" and 8 mRNA expression if possible.

A: The association of TNM classification or recurrence has been evaluated and no significant association was found as shown below. We mentioned this result in Results section.



4. Paragraph 1-3 in discussion section are not discussion, but introduction. Authors should delete these, or write these in introduction section.

A: We sincerely appreciate your insightful comments and suggestions for revising the paper. As you suggested, we have corrected and rewrite it in the revision. We appreciate your insightful suggestions.

5. Could you tell me the concrete plan for using these data clinically, if you think?

A: Thank you for your question. Our study opens new avenues for leveraging publicly available genomic data to study the functions and mechanisms of ceRNAs across human esophagus cancers. The view of ceRNA network in ESCC may help to suggest potential unexpected targets that are applicable to cancer subsets or across cancers.

Thanks very much to editor and reviewers for your precious suggestions !