

Response to reviewers:

Manuscript NO: 42516

Reviewer's code: 00053888

Reviewer's comment to authors: *This is an interesting and well constructed manuscript. The use of photoimmunotherapy is novel and clearly has promise. The authors have used two well established pancreatic cancer cell lines that express a different phenotype but both express the target protein but in different levels. SUIT2 cells are a more anaplastic type cell and BxPC3 a more well differentiated tumour cell. The authors then used BxPC3 cells in a nude mice model and exposed the animals to an anti-TF antibody conjugated to ICG and then exposed the animals to near infra-red light. Tumour growth was inhibited in the treatment group compared to controls. The study has been well conducted and the manuscript is well written. The authors accept that this is a proof of concept and further study is required but this technique certainly shows some promise under the conditions of the study. The figures are excellent and informative but the discussion is too long and would benefit from some serious 'culling'. Overall the manuscript is certainly worthy of publication and will add to the knowledge base in this area.*

Response to reviewer:

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your carefully reading our manuscript and giving constructive and positive comments.

The reviewer suggested that the discussion is too long. We agree reviewer's advice. Thus, we have amended the manuscript by shortening and deleting some sentences.

In Page 18, Line 13, we deleted "*namely, glioblastoma, lung cancer, B-cell lymphoma, bladder squamous cell cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, gastric cancer and pancreatic cancer*".

In Page 23, Line 3, we deleted "*For instance, using fibro-optic diffusers via endoscopes, laparoscopes, catheters, or inserted needles, to deliver NIR light to the peritoneal cavity and overcome the limited penetration depth of NIR light are necessary; the related researches are currently underway by some groups*".

And, we tried our best to streamline the manuscript while keeping some

explanations in order to let the readers fully understand this study.

The English has been revised by a professional mother tongue speaker. (We provided English editing certificate by professional English language editing company (Editage)).

Response to editor's suggestion;

We greatly appreciate the editor for carefully reading our manuscript and for giving detailed constructive suggestions. According to editor's suggestion we have done the following tasks.

1. We have thoroughly revised and prepared the manuscript with Word-processing Software, using 12 pt Book Antiqua font, and 1.5 line spacing with ample margins.
2. We have provided English editing certificate by professional English language editing company (Editage).
3. We have made an audio file (mp3) describing final core tip and provided it with revised manuscript.
4. We have provided the decomposable figure of Figures with power point format (.ppt). We have put the figure legends under each figure, avoided including abbreviations in the figures and explained all the abbreviations under each piece of figure legends. (File designation: Image)
5. We have included manuscript number and running title in revised manuscript.
6. Our study described in the manuscript was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) (17K10460) and we provided the certificate of funding. If it is not an enough document, please delete the part of "Supported by".
7. We have included the biostatistics statement in revised manuscript.
8. We have checked and confirmed that there are no repeated references. We also added the PMID and DOI citation to the reference list.
9. We have attached and provided the first pages of references papers. (File designation: Supplementary material)