EXPRESSION OF CONCERN

DOI: 10.3892/ol.2026.15956

Short hairpin RNA silencing of TGF-βRII and FZD-7 synergistically suppresses proliferation and metastasis of hepatocellular carcinoma cells

CONG CHEN, YUYANG XUE, DEJUN ZHANG, WEI XU, HAO XU, HONG YAO, DONGSHENG PEI and YUMING GU

Oncol Lett 11: 2039-2046, 2016; DOI: 10.3892/ol.2016.4208

Following the publication of this paper, it was drawn to the Editor's attention by a concerned reader that, concerning the cell migration data shown in Fig. 3B on p. 2043, the 'c' and 'd' data panels shown for the HepG2 and Huh-7 cell lines (top and bottom rows respectively) contained overlapping sections of data, such that data which were intended to have shown the results of experiments performed in different cell lines had apparently been derived from the same original sources. In addition, in Fig. 2B on p. 2042, showing colony formation assay data, the 'c' and 'd' panels for the HepG2 cell line (top row of data) contained matching images, albeit they were flipped and rotated relative to each other. Finally, upon performing an independent analysis of the data in this paper in the Editorial Office, it came to light that western blot data featured in Fig. 1C and 5 were strikingly similar to data that were submitted for publication in another paper by the same research group, also to the journal *Oncology Letters*, although the experimental conditions for these data in the second paper were reported to be different.

The authors have been contacted by the Editorial Office to offer an explanation for these apparent anomalies in the presentation of the data in this paper, and we are awaiting their response. Owing to the fact that the Editorial Office has been made aware of potential issues surrounding the scientific integrity of this paper, we are issuing an Expression of Concern to notify readers of these potential problems while the Editorial Office continues to investigate this matter further.



Copyright © 2026 Chen et al. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License.