Momiao Xiong

Professor

Human Genetics Center

Division of Biostatistics

University of Texas School of Public Health

December 27, 2013

Dear Momiao:

I am pleased to support your UH2/UH3 proposal “Point-of-Care Screening and diagnosis of liver cancer in Chinese population”. Your proposal that attempts to develop a new generation of high-performance, low-cost, non-invasive and portable ultrasound scanner and a novel, low cost, enzymatic color reaction-based miRNA biochip for early detection and screen of hepatocellular carcinoma in China is highly relevant and important and will facilitate the use of ultrasound image and miRNA biochip as non-invasive screening tools and early detection of HCC in China.

As a major traditional Chinese medicine hospital (TCM) in China, Hubei Provincial Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital covers an area of more than 170000 square meters with a capacity of 1,250 beds and 1,942 employees. More than 25 doctors and nurses are served in liver cancer and related liver disease in our hospital. We have abundant image related devices which include 2 ultrasound image devices (1 MyLab™ ClassC, 1 MyLab™25Gold), 2 Multi-slice helical X-ray CT scanner (1 Aquilion™ CXL and 1 Airo® Mobile) and 1 Magnetic Resonance Imaging Machine(DV24.0 Continuum Pak).

Hepatopathy Specialist Clinic in TCM, which is a National TCM Hepatopathy Medical Treatment Center and National TCM Research Laboratory, has been designated as national TCM clinical research center since 2008. It ranks the top hepatopathy clinic in China, treating more than 3,500 hepatopathy outpatients and 1,500 hepatopathy inpatients per year, and about 150 of which are liver cancer patients. In our hospital, at least 25% of the hepatopathy outpatients and inpatients will take ultrasound image test while 90% of them will be take blood routine examination.

I am Assistant Dean and Chief physician in the Department of Hepatopathy and associate director of scientific research in the TMC. I am trained in both MD and Ph. D and mainly work in clinical, teaching and research for prevention and treatment of liver cancer and other liver diseases. As PI on four recently funded major national science and technology projects and national science and technology support program by Chinese government, I prepared the ground work for the proposed research. We will collect 1,200 samples from South-Central Chinese population and provide ultrasound image and miRNA data for the proposed research.

I am extremely enthusiastic about this project. I think that this proposal could represent a major breakthrough in developing a nationwide screening and surveillance program for HCC in Chinese population. I am really looking forward to this collaboration and wish you success on your grant application!

Sincerely,

Xiaodong Li

Chief physician, Department of Hepatopathy

Associate Director of scientific research, Hubei Provincial hospital of TCM

Assistant Dean, Hubei Provincial hospital of TCM