

Reviewer 1 v.1

Comments to the Author

Dear Authors,

your intriguing manuscript focused on the gene fusion of IL7 and lncRNA AC083837.1 in poor prognosis cases of IPF.

However, I would kindly ask you some additional explanations.

MAJOR REVISION:

1) Observing table 1, there were several gene fusion combinations with a significant incident rate. It is not so evident the reasons why you decide to focus just on the IL7-AC083837.1 and not consider the others (for example, some of them presented better Chi-square p-value). I guess due to IL7-AC083837.1 were the only genes located nearby. Is it correct? A more detailed explanation would be highly appreciated.

2) It is not clear the number of genes composing the list you tested in the expression correlation analysis. Probably type 1 errors in null hypothesis testing is needed in the last table (pag. 53-57). Speaking about that table, it is almost impossible to read spreading across 6 pages and lacking of legend. Change the format, please.

3) Similarly, you declared that your investigation highlighted 1550 fusion events. Thus, type 1 errors in null hypothesis testing value should be reported in the table 1 as well.

4) Some potentially interesting results are inaccessible. In particular, there is no trace of the 282 differentially expressed gene list (not even in the supplementary material). In addition, the figure 5 and 6 are too dispersive that resulted as not-informative at all. Did you consider to report the same results in a table format or to "zoom in" in the area of interest of the matrix?

MINOR

- Approximation of the number at second or third decimal will be appreciated, as well as, the use of exponential number format in case of low values.

- Supplementary figures lack of relative legend.

Thank you,

Regards