

September 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Revised_13219-Edited.docx).

Title: Stem Cells in Gastric Cancer

Author: Yue Zhao, Fei Feng, Yongning Zhou

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13219

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

The abstract is expanded (>200 words) to better summarize the main points of the article. The newly added text is in RED.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) The reviewer suggested that "The sections on 'cancer stem cell hypothesis' and 'multipotent stem cells in the stomach' could be shortened without losing the key background information".

We followed the reviewer's suggestion by significantly shortening these two sections but keeping key background information. The paragraphs that have been shortened are marked in GREEN.

(2) The reviewer suggested that "The addition of illustrations or figures depicting the hypoetheses would greatly enhance the article".

We followed the suggestion by adding two Figures at the very end of the revised manuscript, which greatly enhance the illustration on the cancer stem cell hypothesis and the gastric stem cells in the stomach.

(3) The reviewer suggested that "3. A short summary section at the end of the manuscript highlighting the main findings and theories would be useful. 4. Also the addition of a short section outlining future research priorities in this field would be interesting".

We followed the suggestions by adding a "SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS" section, which summarizes the major findings that are covered by the article and listed a number of important but unanswered questions that must be investigated. The newly added text is in RED.

(4) The reviewer pointed out typos/grammatical errors, such as Page 5, line 15 'The digestive TRACK consists...' - Same typo page 6, line 7 - page 12, line 3 'in past a few years' does not make sense.

Text with the typos on page 5 and 6 were removed because of shortening the sections. The error on page 12 is corrected.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

The references are updated and in correct format.

4 Language of the manuscript was edited by American Journal Experts (AJE).

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Yongning Zhou, MD
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
The First Hospital of Lanzhou University
Lanzhou, Gansu Province 730000
China
Phone: +86 0931 8356238; FAX: +86 0931 8619797
Email: yongningzhou@163.com