

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised copy of the manuscript previously submitted to *World Journal of Clinical Oncology* (20863). All the critiques forwarded to us from your office and the reviewers were taken into high consideration. Our specific responses to the reviewer's comments and to the editor have been detailed below and modifications have been highlighted on the main document.

We hope this manuscript meets the high standards of *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*. This manuscript has not been submitted simultaneously to another journal, in whole or in part and has been approved by all authors.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Mathilde Bonnet, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mathilde Bonnet', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dear editor and reviewers,

You will find attached a revised version of the text that takes into account the editor and the reviewers' comments and suggestions. We also provide point by point answers to the questions:

Reviewer 00032726:

In this study, authors tried to investigate the molecular or cellular mechanisms of epithelial colonic mucosa infection by pks-positive-E.coli and found that by referring to BLI and fluorescence optical imaging results, we can better understand host-pathogen interactions at early stage of diseases such as CRC and inflammatory bowel diseases. The experiments were well designed, but there are still several flaws to be addressed.

1. In the section of animal models, authors selected male nude mice as experiment subjects. We recommend that authors explain why they excluded female nude mice.

Done in the section of animals models (page 7. "We excluded female nude mice in order to avoid a possible hormonal influence".)

2. In the section of introduction, authors should conclude the latest experimental results, instead of listing all of them.

Experimental results have been added at the end of the introduction section (page 7. "Then, by this approach, we showed, on a xenograft murine model, that pks-positive-E.coli significantly induces oxidative stress and inflammation before stimulating HCT116-tumor growth. While monitoring longitudinal inflammation, we choose to assess tumor growth by determining tumor metabolic activity with a fluorescent tool based on the FDG analogue 2-DeoxyGlucosone. ")

3. Some statements in the introduction should include one or more references, e.g., a. Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most frequently diagnosed cancer worldwide.(line 1, page 5) b. E.coli is also known to represent the most characterized bacteria associated with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that are known risk factors for CRC.(line 13,page 6)

References have been added in the introduction section (N°1, 42, 43).

4. Finally, a few minor typos, grammar hiccups should also be corrected, e.g., a. For both BLI and fluorescence imaging acquisition, ALL animals were imaged using a dedicated high sensitive peltier-cooled (-90°C) backlit Charge-Coupled Device (CCD) camera (IVIS Spectrum, Perkin Elmer, USA). (page 10) b. OPTICAL imaging, appear to be powerful highly sensitive tools in translational cancer research, providing new possibilities for in vivo molecular imaging, particularly allowing better understanding of host-pathogen interactions in several tumoral processes.(line 1, page13)

Grammar and language have been modified (see certificate) and were highlighted on the text.

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