

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



January 17, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find attached our edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Marech_Ranieri Manuscript Possible biological and translational significance of mast cells density in colorectal cancer.docx).

Title: Possible biological and translational significance of mast cells density in colorectal cancer

Author: Ilaria Marech, Michele Ammendola, Claudia Gadaleta, Nicola Zizzo, Caroline Oakley, Cosmo Damiano Gadaleta, Girolamo Ranieri.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5718

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

1 The format has been updated

2 Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) **Reviewer 00724342** has accepted the manuscript in its submitted form

(2) In detail, in reply to **Reviewer 00440197**:

1. The paragraph format has been unified and some sentences have been rewritten to make the manuscript more readable
2. We delete our hypothesis in the abstract and main text in that the manuscript is not an original article as you suggest
3. The source of two figures are not indicated as they have been realized by our group based on cited literature

(3) In detail, in reply to **Reviewer 00068256**:

1. In the introductory paragraph we have discerned the difference between mast cells and mast cell density as follows: "In particular, as well as playing a role in tumor angiogenesis, it has been demonstrated that the number of MCs, so-called MC density (MCD), increases in several human and animal malignancies, and this increased MCD correlates with increased angiogenesis. On this basis, we analyze the principal studies that have focused on MCD as a possible prognostic factor, considering the MC as a possible novel therapeutic target in colorectal cancer (CRC)". Furthermore, in the last but one paragraph the title has been changed as follow: "Mast cells, c-kit receptor and pro-angiogenic factors from mast cells released as possible therapeutic targets in colorectal cancer".
2. The few minor grammatical errors have been corrected

3 References and typesetting were corrected

I certify that the attached manuscript has been now edited by Caroline Oakley a native English speaker in our in-house publications department and has reached Grade A standard.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girolamo Ranieri', written in a cursive style.

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