



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Dear Dr. Andrzej S Tarnawski:

Thank you very much for sending our manuscript "Stroma-Targeting Strategies in Pancreatic Cancer: Past Lessons, Challenges and Prospects" for review. We deeply appreciate the reviewers' and editors' comments and have made changes accordingly.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The authors reviewed "Strobe-targeting strategies in pancreatic cancer". I enjoyed reviewing this article. This review article is very informative and interesting, it is worth being published on WJG.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This is an interesting and timely article that attempts to review stromal-targeting therapies and to put past and future challenges into perspectives in the treatment of PDAC. Pancreatic cancer has a "reactive" or fibrotic stroma characterized by multiple complex interplay which may partially account for the poor response of these patients to stromal-targeting strategies. This review is particularly relevant and topical to the readership of cancer research.

We sincerely thank both reviewers for their positive feedbacks.

Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the stroma-targeting strategies in pancreatic cancer. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B and Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The article is interesting and very informative. It attempts to review stromal-targeting therapies and to put past and future challenges into perspectives in the treatment of PDAC; and (3) Format: There is 1 table and 1 figure. A total of 97 references are cited, including 31 references published in the last 3 years. There are no self-citations. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A and Grade A. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. The study was supported by 4 grants. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5 Issues raised:

(1) The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

Response: We have uploaded the approval documents.

(2) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

Response: We have uploaded the original figures in two format-editable PDF and Powerpoint. **The figure was generated using BioRender which only allows figure output as PDF, PNG and JPEG.**

(3) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;
Response: We have provided these information.

(4) Please obtain permission for the use of picture(s). If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, "Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]". And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable; and

Response: Polani F and Lim KH drew the figure using paid BioRender software. No copy right issue is involved with the figure in this manuscript.

(5)The references' number cited in the text should be superscript.

Response: We have updated the format.

6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Again, we appreciate you for inviting us to submit an article to *WJG*. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Most sincerely and stay safe,



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