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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63224

Title: Biomarkers in the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer: Are we closer to finding the golden ticket?

Reviewer's code: 03864005
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Doctor, Research Scientist, Surgeon
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany
Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26
Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique
Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-27 05:27
Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-03 19:02
Review time: 7 Days and 13 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This work by O'Neill et al. aims at providing a comprehensive review of biomarkers for Pancreatic Cancer. The Manuscript is generally well-written and basically summarizes a plethora of candidates having been or being scientifically evaluated. Partly the manuscript is hard to read, especially in the first part where blood/serum protein biomarkers are merely listed one after another without any conceivable order. I have a couple of comments and issues which I suggest to address before consideration for publication: Core Tip Section: I would tone down the wording "Ca19-9 is not recommended…" since this could generate misunderstandings. As the authors state elsewhere Ca19-9 is widely used, its strengths and limitations should briefly appear in the core tip section as well. Abstract: Consider to provide a more concrete outlook at the end of the abstract including the current state/most promising biomarker candidates (or panels) Table 1: add the references as in the other tables – for consistency. Think about grouping protein biomarkers accordint to type/family/function, e.g. growth factors, cyto-/chemokines, glycolipids/-proteins, adhesion molecules,…etc. this would really help to and give a sense of order and overview Blood/Serum protein biomarkers: as mentioned for Table 1 – I would strongly suggest to somehow group the markers with subheadings to make the reading experience more smooth References: the number of refs provided is huge. I think a good number of them are not strictly necessary – in the case where more than one or two are used to cite previous work. But of course this should be handled according to the editors' assessment and the journals policy. Conclusions section: I am missing a part that gives an outlook (as I mentioned for the abstract section above), informing about and summarizing the most promising biomarker candidates based on the collated list in the provided work. Further, a point should be made, that very likely a biomarker PANEL will be necessary to achieve strong

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sens. and spec. relations. And again, calling Ca19-9 “inappropriate” is sounding too shallow and should be reworded (e.g. “limited”) making it’s strengths and shortcomings more clear. Further, I have a number of additional comments and found many typo, syntax, and vocab issues which all are highlighted by the track change function in the attached file-copy. Those should be addressed.

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RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63224

Title: Biomarkers in the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer: Are we closer to finding the golden ticket?

Reviewer's code: 03864005
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor, Research Scientist, Surgeon

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany

Author's Country/Territory: Australia

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-26

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-25 09:55

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-25 10:49

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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The authors have satisfactorily addressed all my comments and suggestions.