



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**Manuscript NO:** 86872

**Title:** Touselled-like kinase 1 promotes gastric cancer progression by regulating the tumor growth factor-beta signaling pathway

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer’s code:** 03257868

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Romania

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-07-20

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu (Quit 2023)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-08-21 13:23

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-09-03 13:39

**Review time:** 13 Days

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



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<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Please provide molecular weights in western blot data. Please give a larger crop of the western blot so that the specificity of the antibody is addressed.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02530641

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Research Fellow

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Germany

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-07-20

**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-09-29 04:44

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-09-29 05:33

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

TLK1 promotes gastric cancer progression by regulating TGF-beta signaling pathway“ by RuoChuan Sun et al. provides convincing evidence for a role of tousel-like kinase 1 in gastric cancer. The manuscript has to be carefully corrected. Once an abbreviation is defined it should be used. Abbreviations in the title are not recommended. For example: EDU is not explained in the Abstract and TLK1 Is defined two times. “Gastric cancer (GC) ranks as the fifth most prevalent cancer worldwide and stands as the third leading cause of cancer-related mortality[1].Endoscopic interventions serve as the cornerstone for managing early-stage Gastric cancer (GC),” Again GC is defined 2 times. Various spaces are missing. The information regarding e.g. radiation resistance is repetitive. Please correct. Introduction again used abbreviations without explanation. EdU or EDU, what is the correct writing? Mouse model, please indicate gender and age of the mice. How many animals were used. How many had to be killed before the end of the experiment? “A p-value of ≤0.05” should be “A p-value of <0.05 What was the rationale to select AGS and HGC27 for sh experiments and SGC7901 for overexpression? “demonstrated that TLK1



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overexpression promoted SGC7901 cell proliferation, invasion, and migration (Fig. 2B-G). Similarly, analogous phenomena were observed in AGS and HGC27 GC cell lines“ Please correct this sentence, there was no overexpression in these latter cell lines.

Please explain GES-1 in legend of figure 1. Also explain the abbreviations of 1A. In case that  $P < 0.05$  is not used in the figure it should be deleted from the figure legend.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 00008736

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Germany

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-09-28 06:41

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-10-11 03:35

**Review time:** 12 Days and 20 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors investigate the effects of Tausled-like kinase 1 (TLK1) in gastric cancer in vitro and in vivo. While the role of TLK1 was described in other cancers, little is known for gastric cancer yet. Overall, the study is of interest but several points should be addressed and require a major revision:

1. The study uses only a small number of cell lines. It would be interesting to see results with cell lines expressing different levels of TLK1
2. The labeling of the FACS data (Fig 4) needs to be improved. Please add % values
3. What happens when cells are treated with TGFb? this control is missing (Fig 5). What happens when TGFb is blocked (by antibodies) (Fig 6)?
4. IHC data should be quantified
5. Figure 1: explain abbreviations on axis of 1A.
6. The human samples shown in Fig 1 are not described! IRB approval?
7. Only a limited number of cell lines is used (Fig 1). Why was the analysis not run against public databases like CCLE? Also, cell lines need to be better described, e.g. on p53 status, DNA repair systems etc as this is linked to TLK1.
8. The densitometry analysis in Fig 1C does not match the blots in Fig 1B. Bands 1 and 3 should be < 1 if data are relative to GAPDH

Minor points: The manuscript needs language and style revision. Words like "gamut" are unusual and sometimes sentences or phrases are repeated, e.g. lines 68 and 76. Please also avoid abbreviations in the abstract and explain them upon first use in the main text.