

Response to reviewers

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

In brief: It was demonstrated that USP21 contributed to the stability of ZEB1 through modulating ubiquitination level. In addition, USP21 strengthened cell proliferation, migration and stemness through regulating ZEB1. At last, through in vivo assays, it was illustrated that USP21/ZEB1 axis aggravated tumor growth in vivo. The authors approached through 3 stages of experiments. First they determined the distribution of the antigens in CRC resection specimens. Later they have performed in vitro experiments showed the relationship between USP-1 and ZEB1 and in the final stage they have performed animal experiments showed the result of USP21 knout in the animal experiments. My only suggestion would be the revision of English language.

Answer: Thanks for your kind comments. We have revised the English language in this manuscript.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors:

Summary Lin et al. highlighted the role of USP21 in colorectal cancer in this manuscript. The results and discussion of the manuscript is consistent throughout, providing readers with sufficient information. While minor English edits may be needed, it appears scientifically acceptable for acceptance.

Answer: Thanks for your kind comments. We have revised the English language in this manuscript.