

January 28, 2020

Le Zhang  
Science Editor, Editorial Office  
Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

Re: Revision of manuscript to World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology

Dear Dr. Zhang:

We would like to thank you for having our manuscript reviewed in a timely and professional manner and providing us an opportunity to revise our manuscript. We also appreciate you and the reviewers for your thoughtful comments and recommendation of publication. We are sending the revision of our article entitled "Correlations of Morphology and Molecular Alterations in Traditional Serrated Adenoma" to be considered for publication in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology as a mini-review. After this revision, we hope our article will meet the requirements of your journal. A point-by-point response is highlighted in blue font and detailed below.

Sincerely yours,



Hongxing Gui, MD, PhD  
Dept. of Pathology  
Pennsylvania Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Health System  
801 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Comments from the editors and reviewers:

### -Reviewer 1

- Authors review recent studies of the traditional serrated adenoma in this manuscript. Their conclusions are that TSAs are rare serrated polyps located predominantly in the distal colon and at least two pathways have been identified, converging on activation of MAPK by BRAF or KRAS mutations. I think that this manuscript is well organized about the pathological and molecular characteristics of TSA. My minor comment for this manuscript shows below. In molecular alterations of Figure 2, I hope more specific descriptions. For instance, descriptions of the detailed examples for "others" (-, etc.).
- We appreciate for your comments. We made minor changes in Figure 2. The first step of molecular changes was expanded to include *EGFR* as mentioned in the manuscript. For the second step in the figure, we kept others as a possibility and added one sentence in the legend as "Other pathways (BMP?) in addition to WNT signaling might also be involved in this step". There are lines of evidence supporting the involvement of BMP signaling in the development of TSA, which is discussed in details in the manuscript. However, it awaits further investigations.

### -Reviewer 2

- The mini-review is novel and informative. TSA is a subtype of colorectal cancer, however, its pathogenesis is poorly understood due to its rarity. This mini-review briefly and systematically reports the origin and molecular characteristics of TSA. At least two pathways of TSAs have been identified, converging on activation of MAPK by BRAF or KRAS mutations, followed by activation of WNT signaling.
- We appreciate for your kind comment and recommendation.