PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 54554

Title: Rno_circ_0005139 regulates apoptosis by targeting Wnt5a in rat anorectal malformations

Reviewer's code: 02453616

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Director, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2020-02-07

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2020-02-09 13:18

Reviewer performed review: 2020-02-10 03:26

Review time: 14 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] 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	[ ] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors investigated differential expression of circRNA and mRNA expression in their ARM animal model and identified 38 upregulated and 42 down-regulated circRNA. From there, they focused on one circRNA 5139 for further analysis. From the side of mRNA expression profiling, they also had 3 candidates to start with, Wnt5a, Wnt2b, and Wnt10b, and decided to go with Wnt5a. The authors used a series of in vitro experiments to nicely show the relationship in expression between circRNA 5139, miR-324-3p, and Wnt5a. It is not unusual for investigators to select specific targets from a list of candidates for the next-step in-depth analysis (fit-for-purpose), but it is always a good practice to inform the readers about the justification of the choice, because obviously if the choice was random, it would be really questionable. First, why was circRNA 5139 chosen but why not 436 and 9285? These two seem to be interesting as their differential expressions also have statistical significance. Secondly, why was Wnt5a chosen? The manuscript has good quality, but it is preferable these two questions can be clarified before being accepted for publication.