



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 00503601

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-22 00:21

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-22 02:15

**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<br><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 Grade E: Do not publish            |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<br><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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
**https://**www.wjgnet.com

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is a manuscript looking at lncRNA C9orf139 in relation to oncogenesis in PDAC. The first part looks at comparing expression levels in serum and tissue in 54 PDAC patients from 2013 to 2014 with a 5 year follow up, and compares this to expression in serum in 30 "normal" individuals. It is unclear how these "normal" patients were determined but appears to be "clinically" normal but without mention of imaging studies or other investigations to exclude pancreatic disorders including premalignant states. Figure 1A which shows levels in PDAC and controls seems to show some overlap between samples and it would actually be better if the comparison had also included serum and tissue from a cohort of patients who had surgery for non-malignant pancreatic disorders, e.g. cystic neoplasms. In Figure 1B, it shows "precancerous" tissue, but it is unclear what this means as in the methodology it is described as "adjacent" tissue. The definition of expression levels into high and low is not clearly stated and it is uncertain how this separation into 27 high and 27 low expression levels is done. The cell line and animal model studies that demonstrate knockouts of C9orf139 inhibiting growth of PDAC cells, and the inhibition of miR663a and mediation of SOX12 to increase PDAC cell growth are well demonstrated in Figures 2 to 5. The conclusions are reasonable. There is a need for minor language revision regarding terminology and expression.



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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 03468910

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor, Surgeon

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-27 10:57

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-28 13:34

**Review time:** 1 Day and 2 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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><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)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In this Study the Authors evaluate the function of tumor suppressor LncRNA C9orf139 in pancreatic cancer progression. The Abstract and Introduction sound well. I recommended adding the References in last part of Introduction: "Previous Studies have found that mi R-663a is lowly expressed in..." (References). In Materials and Methods the Authors must better explain how and how much tumor tissue was collected. The Authors have to explain if the 2 groups (cancer patients and control group) were homogeneous or not in gender and age. Statistical analysis and Results are good. Discussion is good. The Authors must correct reference n. 20: the first name is wrong.



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer’s code:** 00506472

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

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

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-27 10:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-28 17:25

**Review time:** 1 Day and 6 Hours

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific quality</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><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<br><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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input 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<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

It is a well written paper to evaluate the function of tumor suppressor lncRNA C9orf139 in pancreatic cancer progression and to study the underlying mechanism in a series of 54 patients. No comments.



### PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 03529755

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-30 05:32

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-07-30 05:37

**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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I read the article carefully. I would like to accept this well written article as it is. It adds novel information about pancreatic cancer genetics to the literature. Thank you.



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 03004570

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-07-28 19:53

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-08-12 06:01

**Review time:** 14 Days and 10 Hours

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific quality</b>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><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<br><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)<br><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<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |



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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This manuscript is a nice and important basic study about the new potential treatment target in pancreatic cancer. The abstract, core tips, key words, materials and methods are adequate. The article contains 33 references. Table and pictures are also adequate. The authors found that lncRNA C9orf139 could promote the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis, but the title of the manuscript is “lncRNA C9orf139 inhibits pancreatic cancer cell growth by modulating miR-663a/SOX12 axis”. There is a clear discordance between the results and the title, this may be a typewriting error; for this reason the title should be corrected. After this correction, manuscript worth publishing.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 00506472

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Pan Huang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-09-25 08:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-09-25 08:41

**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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| <b>Conclusion</b>               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Peer-reviewer statements</b> | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](https://www.wjgnet.com)

No further comments.



## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 57286

**Title:** LncRNA C9orf139 can regulate the growth of pancreatic cancer by mediating the miR-663a/Sox12 axis

**Reviewer's code:** 03004570

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-06-01

**Reviewer chosen by:** Pan Huang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-09-25 21:15

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-09-25 21:29

**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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| <b>Language quality</b>         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| <b>Peer-reviewer statements</b> | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No   |

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After corrections have been made, this manuscript is now available for publication.