

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 63332

Title: Effects of CXC Y2 isoforms in a pancreatic pre-tumour cellular model: Microarray analysis

Reviewer's code: 05048160

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-28

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-01-28 17:25

Reviewer performed review: 2021-02-01 09:21

Review time: 3 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<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
Conclusion	<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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	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

Manuscript 63332 by Cacati et al. and entitled “Effects of CXCL12 isoforms in a pancreatic pre-tumour cellular model: microarray analysis” concerns a microarray analysis of the response of a model cell line for very early, pre-tumor pancreas, the hTERT-HPNE E6/E7/KRasG12D cell line which mimics PanIN-3 phase of pre-maglinant progression. Stromal cancer associated fibroblast (CAFS) are well known to secrete extracellular matrix components and thus contribute to the well known dense stromal compartment (desmoplastic reaction) in pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PDAC). These cells also secrete cytokines that can modify the behavior not only of the cancer cells but also drive the pre-cancer cells to progress. One group of these cytokines are the CXCL12 family members. The authors performed these experiments to determine the role of a series of CXCL12 family members (α , β , and γ) in modifying the cells gene expression and motility to drive the early steps of progression. They found differences in expression of cell cycle genes by the β isoform while all there isoforms affected genes for the cytoskeleton, adhesion and migration. Interestingly, the γ isoform showed a higher induction of migration in a wound healing assay than did the other two sioforms. The manuscript is very well organized and the data well presented and clearly discussed. As this paper will be read by those not so familiar with the details of PDAC and pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia progression, I feel that a more complete description of the hTERT-HPNE E6/E7/KRasG12D cell line be presented both in the M&M and especially in the Discussion in-order-to have a better idea of this cell line. We need to know at least some details of how the KRasG12D expression/transformation is considered to modify the original cell line. Also, there are some small problems with English throughout the manuscript that needs to be corrected; just a few examples: Abstract: “highlighted that only the expression of few genes was affected.” should be “the expression of only a few



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genes..." "At functional level, β isoforms altered the expression of genes mainly involved in cell cycle regulation." Please remove "At functional level" since this not functional Introduction: "An earliest genetic event" should be either 'An early' or 'The earliest' Conclusions: "different CXCL12 isoforms prompt cell migration at different extents" should be: "to different extents" These may seem to be small errors but together with other examples, this makes the reading difficult and is a shame in such a good manuscript. All in all, with the better description of the cell line and an improvement of the English, I believe that this manuscript will be ready for publication.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Author's Country/Territory: Italy

Manuscript submission date: 2021-01-28

Reviewer chosen by: Chen-Chen Gao

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-03-08 07:31

Reviewer performed review: 2021-03-08 07:39

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Excellent [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Very good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: Good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Fair [<input type="radio"/>] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Priority publishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Minor language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Accept (High priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Accept (General priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Minor revision [<input type="radio"/>] Major revision [<input type="radio"/>] Rejection
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

After I have read the resided manuscript and compared it to the original and to the author answers to the reviwer comments, I am completely satisfied that they have done an excellent job in revision and I recommend immediate publication of this fine and interesting study.