

Feb. 13, 2014

Dear Editor,

**Title:** The role of non-coding RNAs in pancreatic cancer: the bane of the microworld.

**Author:** Yiting Tang, Shuyu Zhang, Xiaohui Xu, Xiaodong Yang, Jun Hao, Han Cao, Wei Zhu, Jianping Cao

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Major comments:

1. Please list a table which summarized all known specific ncRNAs and their biological functions in pancreatic cancer, but not just list general function of the type of ncRNAs as in Table 1. For example: miR-421, suppresses expression of DPC4/Smad

[Response: We have listed the ncRNAs in Table.1 accordingly.](#)

2. One of the focus on ncRNA study is early diagnosis and treatment, as you described in the last words in the Abstract. Therefore, please add an additional part that review the research status on the effect of ncRNAs in early diagnosis and treatment.

[Response: ncRNA-based diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer is the fifth part of this manuscript. We have added the research status on the effect of ncRNAs in early diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer. They provided great application potential even though it's under preclinical research and/or have applied for clinical trials.](#)

3. Does the word "microworld" mean "microenvironment"? From the title, we guess you well review ncRNAs involved in tumor-stromal interaction, but you did not discuss this matter specifically in the manuscript. As you put the paragraph "Pancreatic cancer and its microworld" leading first in the whole paper, but you did not discuss ncRNAs involved in tumor-microenvironment interaction specifically, we suggest you should revise the title of this article, and correct the logical relationship of the whole article.

[Response: microworld means from the perspective of molecular biology. The tumor-stromal interaction is only a part of this review. We have streamlined the paragraph "Pancreatic cancer and its microworld" and correct the logical relationship accordingly.](#)

Minor comments:

1. The first two sentence of the abstract is not appropriate, the word "models" is confused, and thses words did not describe the intent of this article well.

[Response: Yes, I'm sorry the word "models" is kind of out of the blue, and we have corrected this according to the whole paragraph.](#)

2. The background of micro RNAs has been well known now, so you can describe the introduction on miRNAs more clear and concise.

Response: We have revised it accordingly. Because micro RNA has been well stated elsewhere, in this article, we emphasized long non-coding RNAs' role in the pancreatic cancer as well as micro RNAs.

The other comments

1) The last sentence of the Abstract needs to be rephrased. You may change to "with the aim of analyzing the feasibility of clinical application of ncRNA in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer".

2) I would delete the first 3 sentences of the Introduction. They are not related to the topic. The fourth sentence, I would change to "pancreatic cancer is a lethal malignancy with poor prognosis due to advanced stage disease at initial diagnosis, frequent recurrence and the absence of treatment strategies that specifically and effectively target these tumors".

3) The last sentence of Page 4, an abbreviation "LncRNAs" should be introduced after "Long ncRNAs".

Response: Thanks for your suggestions. We have revised these points accordingly.

4) Please rephrase the second sentence in the section "3. Pancreatic cancer and its microworld". It is very difficult to understand. In the same section, the transition from the 2 limitations to the conclusion "Hence,..." is very abrupt. I didn't see there is connection between them. Please rewrite this portion.

Response: We have correct the logical relationship accordingly, and we have deleted "the 2 limitations" to make the transition streamlining.

5) I would switch "4.2" with "4.3".

Response: In this paragraph, we described the ncRNAs according to its length one by one. I wonder whether it's better to describe "other small ncRNAs" before "lncRNAs".

6) In the last sentence of the first page of Page 14, please delete "through".

Response: We have revised it accordingly.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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