

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



December 17, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7274-review.doc).

Title: Mesenchymal stem cells in treating autism: novel insights

Authors: Dario Siniscalco, James Jeffrey Bradstreet, Nataliia Sych, Nicola Antonucci

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Stem Cells*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7274

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers in a point-by-point manner below and in the manuscript (highlighted in blue font).

General comments

- (1) The importance of the research and the significance of the research contents
The study is important since it is describing mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) application in treating Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).
- (2) The novelty and innovation of the research
The research is novel in terms of treating ASDs using MSCs.
- (3) Presentation and readability of the manuscript
The manuscript is well presented and easy to read.
- (4) Ethics of the research
There seems no problem in ethics as long as it is anonymously written.

Specific comments

Title: It accurately reflects the major topic and contents of the study.

Abstract: It clearly describes the purpose of the study.

Material and methods: N/A

Results: Precise description why ASDs are considered to be a lifelong disability would be added in line 9 in Autism Spectrum Disorders section.

- We have now added a description of the autistic symptoms still persisted in adulthood.

Discussion: N/A

References: Cook MM et al 2012 Tissue Engineering Part C vol 18, 319-328 might be added to show 3D culture of MSCs has higher levels of hematopoietic niche factors compared to 2D culture around the third paragraph in Problems section.

- Accordingly, we have now added this interesting article and discussed it in Problems section.

Tables and figures: N/A

We thank the reviewer for his/her thorough and constructive review, that has greatly improved our manuscript.

2 Editor's suggestions have been corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dario Siniscalco', is positioned above a faint, rectangular stamp that also contains the name 'Dario Siniscalco'.

Dario Siniscalco, *Chem.D., Ph.D.*

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