

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The manuscript deals with an interesting and important argument, the authors investigate the underlying mechanism of curcumin exerts anti-tumor activity in CRC. The topic has a clinical relevance since curcumin exhibited powerful anti-tumor activity in diverse cancers, including CRC. It needs further investigation regarding the mechanism through which curcumin affects CRC development. The manuscript is well written: the title reflects the main subject of the article, abstract and keywords well summarize the arguments. The methodology is described in detail and is well structured. Authors found that Curcumin repressed CRC cell proliferation and boosted apoptosis and overexpression of hsa_circ_0136666 reversed curcumin-mediated CRC cell growth and apoptosis in vitro. Hsa_circ_0136666 could reverse curcumin-triggered CRC cell proliferation and apoptosis by interacting with miR-1301-3p, miR-1301-3p knockdown overturned curcumin-induced increase in CRC cell growth and decrease in apoptosis by targeting CXCL1. The discussion is well articulated according to results and the authors have clearly highlighted the findings of the study and discussed in detail. A point of strength of the article in my opinion is that it elucidates a new mechanism of curcumin and sheds light on developing a new therapeutic for CRC treatment. The tables/figures are representatives and of good quality. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest and authoritative references.

Reply: Thank you for your kindly suggestions, we appreciate your affirmation of this manuscript. Meanwhile, we have cited more latest and authoritative references according to the suggestions.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The role and mechanism of curcumin in CRC development were explored in this study. Shi Chen and his colleagues found that curcumin repressed CRC cell proliferation and boosted apoptosis, and first verified it was associated with the regulatory network of the hsa_circ_0136666/miR-1301-3p/CXCL1. The title reflects the main subject of the manuscript. The abstract summarizes and reflects the work described in the manuscript. However, I recommend changing this part to a structured abstract. The manuscript adequately describes the background, present status, and significance of the study. The manuscript describes methods in adequate detail. The research objectives achieved by the experiments are used in this study. The manuscript interprets the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically. The findings and their applicability/relevance to the literature are stated in a clear and definite manner. The discussion is accurate and it discuss the paper's scientific significance and relevance to clinical practice sufficiently. The tables are sufficient,

good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents. The manuscript is well, concisely and coherently organized and presented. The style, language and grammar are accurate and appropriate. I recommend accepting this manuscript for publication after a minor editing.

Reply: Thank you for your kindly suggestions and recognition, we really appreciate your approval of this manuscript. Also, we have improved the manuscript according to the journal's instruction.