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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 25619
Title: Fibroblasts, an inconspicuous but essential player in colon cancer development and progression
Reviewer's code: 00505502
Reviewer's country: Japan
Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong
Date sent for review: 2016-03-20 12:39
Date reviewed: 2016-04-07 07:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[Y] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[ ] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[Y] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[ ] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors reviewed the role of cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) in cancer initiation and progression. They suggested that targeting CAFs can be a novel strategy to treat cancer. This paper is an important contribution and I recommend that it be accepted for publication.

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ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 25619
Title: Fibroblasts, an inconspicuous but essential player in colon cancer development and progression
Reviewer's code: 00560095
Reviewer's country: Netherlands
Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong
Date sent for review: 2016-03-20 12:39
Date reviewed: 2016-04-08 17:21

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] The same title	[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] Duplicate publication	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade D: Fair	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Plagiarism	[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	[Y] Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		[ ] The same title	
		[ ] Duplicate publication	
		[ ] Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors wrote a comprehensive, informative review on the role of fibroblasts in colon carcinogenesis. The manuscript is well written and a valuable contribution to international literature. They address multiple roles for fibroblasts in tumor initiation and progression, with a particular focus on the role of- and interaction with the immune system. By making this decision other aspects of how fibroblasts are involved in these processes are less highlighted. Although the focus is on colon cancer, the authors choose to discuss also finding in other tumor types, which is valuable, but also decreases the depth of the review. An example of that would be that a complete review could be written on the origin on CAFs, but summarizing the origin of CAFs in 2 pages for multiple tumor types seems somewhat difficult, without losing important information. I noticed that sometimes studies with contradictory findings do not get equal attention (like for the role of EMT). I would recommend to have a bit more balanced overview of the role of CAFs in CRC. This would mean somewhat less attention to other tumor types and/or the specific role of the immune regulation. Several important papers are missing in this regard, for example Berdiel-Acer et al, Mol Oncol. 2014

Oct;8(7):1290-305, Calon et al Semin Cancer Biol. 2014 Apr;25:15-22 and more recently Vellinga et al Oncogene. 2016 Mar 21. doi: 10.1038/onc.2016.60, but also several other in relation to cross talk between fibroblasts and epithelial cancer cells and the prognostic relevance of SMA+CAFs in CRC. The future perspective contains a lot of data which would fit better in earlier parts of the manuscript. In this part the authors mention that normal fibroblasts express SMA, which is only true for pericryptical fibroblasts and fibroblasts in culture. In the manuscript text reference to the figures is only provided in the title of the paragraph and not in the text. Furthermore legends are very short and do not contain sufficient information to understand the figure. In table-1 the meaning is not clear to me. What does + versus +++ mean? Please explain in legend.