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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 64684

Title: PCLAF, a potential proto-oncogene with increased expression in malignant gastrointestinal tumors

Reviewer's code: 03713896
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Doctor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy
Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer accepted review: 2021-05-05 12:36
Reviewer performed review: 2021-05-11 11:25
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Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

PCLAF is a protein involved in many pathways that regulate embryonic and cancer cells. It is upregulated in many neoplasms and often associated with poor prognosis. Researches are ongoing to decipher some more details on its role in tumorigenesis and cancer treatment. The present review summarize data regarding PCLAF in cancer. The paper is well-written and authors gave a wide overview of the topic. However, I have some suggestions and in my opinion some minor revisions should be done. - Since the main aim of the review is to describe PCLAF in malignant gastrointestinal tumors, authors should pinpoint it, reserving specific sentences/paragraphs to these neoplasms and distinguishing them from the other tumors. - A more updated literature revision could enrich the review. In particular some new findings have been recently published regarding the role of PCLAF in lung tumorigenesis (doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2021.02.001), chronic lymphocytic leukemia cells (doi: 10.21037/atm-21-626), nasopharyngeal carcinoma (doi: 10.1016/j.biopha.2020.109905), but also in gastrointestinal tumors (doi: 10.1007/s12032-014-0106-5; PMID: 33970778, DOI: 10.1186/s12885-021-07994-3). - A new Fig/Table (or a enrichment of Fig2) summarizing all the pathways in which PCLAF is involved could be useful (if possibly, distinguishing PCLAF main roles in gastrointestinal cancer). - With regard to gastrointestinal cancers, Yu P (ref 16, DOI: 10.1038/sj.onc.1204113) many years ago showed that PCLAF increased mRNA level is especially dramatic in esophageal tumor suggesting that it could be used to predict clinical prognosis for esophageal cancer patients. Authors should mention these results into specific “esophageal cancer” paragraph. - Fig 2 need to be revised. Since the authors stated that PCLAF expression is negatively regulated by the Rb/E2F pathway, Fig 2 must be modify accordingly. The interaction with PCNA is not described in the Fig2. - Authors should deeply revise the

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text, adding the right citation when some specific study is mentioned, since some of them are missing (eg “Esophageal Cancer” paragraph: “Further study has indicated that PCLAF is associated with higher stage, tumor recurrence, and poor survival” [?]; “Colorectal cancer” paragraph: “ Immunostaining of colon cancer tissue microarray confirms that PCLAF is strongly expressed in colon cancer tissues compared to the normal intestine “[?],… - PCLAF seems to be involved also in the response to radiation: authors should add something about that in the paragraph of therapeutic strategies.