

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 78794

Title: KLF16 promotes pancreatic adenocarcinoma cell proliferation and migration by positively regulating SMAD6

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03738702

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MSc, PhD

Professional title: Senior Researcher, Senior Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-07-15

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-15 16:42

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-19 12:01

Review time: 3 Days and 19 Hours

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Re-review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
|-------------------------------------|---|

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this work, the authors have investigated the expression of KLF16 as potential oncogene/biomarker of pancreatic adenocarcinoma (PAAD). In particular, the authors showed that KLF16 and SMAD6 overexpression promoted the malignant function of PAAD and the KLF16/SMAD6 axis might be explored as a therapeutic target for PAAD therapy. The work treats an interesting topic, however after a careful reading through the text, I found several issues that should be addressed. My suggestions are below described in a point-by-point list: 1. In the introduction, the authors should better describe the rationale that led them to study KLF16 as a potential biomarker for PAAD. 2.

In figure 2, the control band of figure 2H (western blot) is much lower than the control band in figure 2B. Please clarify. 3. Also in figure 4, microscope images in the control are very different. Please clarify. 4. In figure 5, the control band of overexpression experiments (western blot, figure 5D) is much lower than the control band of knockdown experiments. Please clarify. 5. To support the potential role of KLF16 as biomarker for PAAD, the authors analysed their expression in both normal and PAAD tissues in the TCGA dataset. However, if survival data can be acquired from the TCGA PAAD dataset, an association analysis between KLF16 expression and survival rate should be performed.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03261315

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: FACE, PhD

Professional title: Academic Research, Chief Doctor, Doctor, Postdoc, Professor, Senior Researcher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Romania

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-18 10:40

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-26 10:25

Review time: 7 Days and 23 Hours

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|---------------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |



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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Re-review | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Peer-reviewer statements | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study adds new data regarding the genetics in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. It clearly and well written.

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Academic degree: MSc, PhD

Professional title: Senior Researcher, Senior Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Italy

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Yun-Xiaojian Wu

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-13 10:20

Reviewer performed review: 2022-09-13 10:38

Review time: 1 Hour

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|---------------------------|---|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish |
| Language quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| Peer-reviewer | Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I am satisfied with the corrections made by the authors.