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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 89280

Title: USP21 promotes tumorigenicity and stemness of colorectal cancer by deubiquitinating and stabilizing ZEB1

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05429162
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD, PhD
Professional title: Academic Fellow, Academic Research, Chief Doctor, Doctor, Research Fellow
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-10-26

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-11-17 01:17

Reviewer performed review: 2023-11-26 01:57

Review time: 9 Days

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty

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Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
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) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary Lin et al. highlighted the role of USP21 in colorectal cancer in this manuscript. The results and discussion of the manuscript is consistent throughout, providing readers with sufficient information. While minor English edits may be needed, it appears scientifically acceptable for acceptance.

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Reviewer's code: 05562744
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: FACS, MD, PhD
Professional title: Professor, Senior Scientist
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-10-26

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-12-20 09:47

Reviewer performed review: 2023-12-28 08:39

Review time: 7 Days and 22 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [ ] Anonymous [Y] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In brief: It was demonstrated that USP21 contributed to the stability of ZEB1 through modulating ubiquitination level. In addition, USP21 strengthened cell proliferation, migration and stemness through regulating ZEB1. At last, through in vivo assays, it was illustrated that USP21/ZEB1 axis aggravated tumor growth in vivo. The authors approached through 3 stages of experiments. First they determined the distribution of the antigens in CRC resection specimens. Later they have performed in vitro experiments showed the relationship between USP-1 and ZEB1 and in the final stage they have performed animal experiments ashowed the result of USP21 knout in the animal experiments. My only suggestion would be the revision of English language.