

Point by point response to referee comments

Round 1

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Circular RNA circVAPA promotes chemotherapy drug resistance in gastric cancer progression by regulating miR-125b-5p/STAT3 axis" (ID: 61426). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Reviewer # 1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing) Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: this topic is interesting, but i have some comments mentioned below: 1- please mention the degree of freedom for every p value 2- as regards the figures, please add scale bar, annotations, insets, magnification, type of species, type of dye for each figure 3- language needs polishing 4- what is the strong and weak points in your work

Thank you for your professional and constructive comments. We mentioned the degree and freedom for every P value. We added as regards the figures, please add scale bar, annotations, insets, magnification, type of species, type of dye for each figure. We improved the language of the manuscript. In this study, the strong point is that we identified an unreported role of circVAPA in enhancing chemotherapy resistance and promoting malignant progression of GC by miR-125b-5p/ STAT3 signaling. We just

focus on the DDP resistance of GC cells.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing) Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The logic and consistency of this paper are very strong, and the workload is large, including *in vivo* and *in vitro* experiments. However, this is generally innovative. And there are many studies on the roles of miRNA and circular RNA as sponges. In addition, the language of the paper needs to be polished.

Thank you for your professional and constructive comments. In this study, we identified an unreported role of circVAPA in enhancing chemotherapy resistance and promoting malignant progression of GC by miR-125b-5p/STAT3 signaling. The effect of circVAPA and miR-125b-5p on chemotherapy resistance of GC cells, the correlation of circVAPA with miR-125b-5p and STAT3 was not reported previously. We improved the language of the manuscript.

1 LANGUAGE QUALITY

Please resolve all language issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report. Please be sure to have a native-English speaker edit the manuscript for grammar, sentence structure, word usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, format, and general readability, so that the manuscript's language will meet our direct publishing needs.

Thank you for your professional and constructive comments. We improved the language of the manuscript.

2 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a basic study of circular RNA circVAPA promotes chemotherapy drug resistance in gastric cancer progression. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B, C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The logic and consistency of this paper are very strong, and the workload is large, including in vivo and in vitro experiments. In addition, the author needs to add scale bar, annotations, insets, magnification, type of species, type of dye for each figure; and (3) Format: There are 7 figures. A total of 37 references are cited, including 23 references published in the last 3 years. There are no self-citations. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B, B. The authors provided the Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Institutional Review Board Approval Form, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Approval Form, and the ARRIVE Guidelines. No academic misconduct was found in the Crosscheck detection and the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The study is supported by Natural Science Foundation of Liaoning Province. The topic has not previously been

published in the WJG. 5 Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor; (2) The "CONCLUSION" and "ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS" sections are missing. Please write this section at the end of main text; and (3) the author needs to provide the grant application form(s).

Thank you for your professional and constructive comments. We revised the manuscript according to the comments.

Round 2

Dear Editor: Thank you very much for your comments for our manuscript entitled "Circular RNA circVAPA promotes chemotherapy drug resistance in gastric cancer progression by regulating miR-125b-5p/STAT3 axis. The reviewers' comments are very helpful for revising and improving our paper. We carefully revised our manuscript according to the reviewers' comments point by point. Please find attached reply to comments. We carefully polished the grammar and language in the revised manuscript. We state that the material is original research, has not been previously published and has not been submitted for publication elsewhere while under consideration. No conflict of interest exists in the submission of this manuscript, and manuscript is approved by all authors for publication. Thanks for your kind consideration. Sincerely, Feng Gu, The First Affiliated Hospital of China Medical University
E-mail: fenggu78186069@163.com