

Athens, January 01, 2024

To: World Journal of Gastroenterology (WJG) Editor

Re: Revision of the Editorial: “Exosome-mediated transfer of circRNA563 promoting hepatocellular carcinoma by targeting the microRNA148a-3p/metal-regulatory transcription factor-1 pathway”

Dear Editor,

We want to thank you for accepting our work for publication in WJG. We modified our manuscript according to the review report as shown below (reviewers’ comments are in standard font; our responses are in **bold**).

1. The abstract is tedious and needs to be chopped.

The abstract has been modified.

2. In Introduction, EVs in fact include two groups, ectosomes and exosomes (Cocucci, E., Meldolesi, J., 2015, Trends Cell Biol 25, 364-372). Apoptotic bodies are very hard to be completely separated from EVs due to the similarity in size and morphology. Therefore, enriched EVs contains an amount of apoptotic bodies in practice

The Introduction section has been modified.

3. The sentence ‘Eventually, with the development of RNA sequencing and the identification of the circRNAs, as well as through the understanding of the competitive endogenous RNA (ceRNA) theory, which suggests that several RNA molecules like long non-coding RNA (lncRNA), circRNAs, and mRNAs, which can competitively share miRNA binding sites, expanded the research approaches for HCC pathogenesis and therapeutic targets’ is too long. It needs to be rephrased and make it easy follow by readers.

The phrase has been modified.

4. In Figure 1, delete the contents of apoptotic bodies.

Figure 1 has been modified as suggested.

5. In Figure 2, use the same color for miRNA

Figure 2 has been modified as suggested.

We want to thank the reviewers again for their insightful comments, which, we believe, have improved our manuscript. The English language has also been re-evaluated.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nikolaos Papadopoulos, MD, PhD