

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We thank the reviewers for the thoughtful comments on our paper and carefully taken these comments into consideration in preparing our revision, below is our response to the reviewer.

Revision – authors' response

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The modified manuscript sound more attractable to the journal readers.

Thank you for your comments.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: I'd like the author(s) to make the following changes: 1. Rephrasing the current title more in terms of arranging and delaying some phrases in it is beneficial for attracting the reader's attention later after publication. 2. I recommend adding a new paragraph at the end of the study abstract explaining the conclusion, because the abstract now has two parts: a presentation on the Corona pandemic and an attempt to track a previously published study on the relationship of Covid to pancreatic cancer. 3. Is the abbreviation (PC) the official one for pancreatic cancer? Please correct if necessary. 4. I propose rewriting the conclusion in the final section of the paper in a more effective manner than it is now. Good luck,

(1) Rephrasing the current title more in terms of arranging and delaying some phrases in it is beneficial for attracting the reader's attention later after publication.

The title has been changed to "Comment on "Crosstalk between gut microbiota and COVID-19 impacts pancreatic cancer progression"". "

(2) I recommend adding a new paragraph at the end of the study abstract explaining the conclusion, because the abstract now has two parts: a presentation on the Corona pandemic and an attempt to track a previously published study on the relationship of Covid to pancreatic cancer.

The abstract section has been revised, please see the highlighted section on page 2 of the article for more details "Here, we review the latest cutting-edge researches in the field of the lung-gut-pancreatic axis and discuss future perspectives to address the severe survival challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in patients with pancreatic cancer."

(3) Is the abbreviation (PC) the official one for pancreatic cancer? Please correct if necessary.

All the abbreviations (PC) for pancreatic cancer have been removed from the article.

(4) I propose rewriting the conclusion in the final section of the paper in a more effective manner than it is now.

Modified, please see the highlighted section on page 5 of the article for details "In conclusion, COVID-19 impacts pancreatic cancer progression based on lung-gut-pancreatic axis, nevertheless, more studies investigating the potential mechanisms of the crosstalk between COVID-19, pancreatic cancer and gut microbiota are needed in patients with COVID-19 and pancreatic cancer co-morbidity to achieve a better management. Focusing on the lung-gut-pancreatic axis is expected to move us into a new paradigm of

treatment for COVID-19 in patients with pancreatic cancer."

Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report and the full text of the manuscript, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the Reference Citation Analysis (RCA). RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>.

Please see the highlighted sections on pages 3 and 4 of the text for details "RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. We searched the RCA database for articles in cutting-edge fields in the last 2 years using the search terms "COVID-19", "pancreatic cancer", and "gut microbiota". In addition to highlighting that the gut microbiota regulates immune and inflammatory responses to influence disease severity in COVID-19 and pancreatic cancer^[9,10], recent studies have revealed a complex intrinsic association between the three."

"Current studies indicate that the microbiota alters the malignant phenotype and prognosis of pancreatic cancer in ways that include stimulating persistent inflammation, altering the tumor microenvironment, modulating the

anti-tumor immune system, and affecting cellular metabolism^[11]. The emerging link between the gut microbiota and pancreatic cancer has recently highlighted the concept of local (direct pancreatic effects) and remote (non-pancreatic) effects of bacteria on organ physiology, which offers potential therapeutic options for pancreatic cancer^[12].”

“The latest cutting-edge research has bridged the gap between COVID-19 and the gut microbiota, discovering mechanisms that link the gut microbiota to the expression of the viral entry receptor angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2)^[13], the inflammatory response^[14], the immune homeostasis^[15], the microbiota metabolism^[16], and the “gut-lung axis”^[17]. In COVID-19, the main factor associated with disease severity is the involvement of a cytokine storm in the immune response, i.e., tissue damage and systemic inflammation^[13]. The gut microbiota may influence the severity of COVID-19 by regulating the host immune response^[18].”

In addition, involving the new cutting-edge of references 9-18 are all from the RCA database.

Science editor:

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

The revised manuscript has been re-polished and the language editing certificate has been provided.

We are very interested in the journal *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology* and have learned a lot from the suggestion from the editors and reviewers. We hope you will consider our paper.

Best wishes,

Shi Liu.