

August 22, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: CSCinGI.8.21.12-review.doc).

Title: Stem cells in gastrointestinal cancers: The road less travelled

Author: Sameh Mikhail, Amer Zeidan

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Stem Cells*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12774

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers "Title "Stem cells in gastrointestinal cancers: The road less travelled" is very attractive. The review lists some general knowledge about gastrointestinal (GI) stem cells that include the pathways that regulate GI intestinal stem cell, GI cancer stem cell markers, anticancer therapies, target pathways, etc. However, some points, in particular, GI cancer markers are not quite detailed. These GI cancer markers should be tightly connected with pathways that regulates GI cancer stem cells. Therefore, audiences could catch the points, markers, regulatory pathways, and cancer therapies, etc. overall, the review needs more details. Minor points: Wnt/b-Catenin pathway should be included non-canonical pathway. Notch pathway is described too brief and simple. For example, what is in between Notch receptor and target genes? How does Notch pathway regulate downstream target genes?"

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) We have added a table to link GI cancer markers to some of the most commonly seen GI cancers.

(2) We have expanded some sections including Wnt pathway and notch pathway to provide more detail about their interaction

(3) We included Wnt/b-cateinin pathway next to Notch and elaborated on the role of the non-canonical regulation of Notch.

4) Since our review is intended to provide a general overview of the different aspects of CSC including pathways, markes and treatment, we believe that expanding the pathway section may wekane it. Each pathway can be separately described in a detailed review but we hope that ours can introduce the reader to the main advancements in the field of stem cell research in GI malignancies.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Stem Cells*.

Sincerely yours,
Amer Zeidan
Sameh Mikhail