

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Stem Cells

Manuscript NO: 82012

Title: How the interplay among the tumor microenvironment and the gut microbiota influence the stemness of colorectal cancer cells

Journal Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor): Carlo Ventura

Country/Territory: Italy

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Date accepted review: 2023-04-03 08:39

Date reviewed: 2023-04-04 14:43

Review time: 1 Day and 6 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting and comprehensive review article, with a good balance between a general view and a detailed dissection of the covered issues. Moreover, the Authors have satisfactorily addressed the criticisms and suggestions raised by the Reviewers who had previously the opportunity to assess their work. Nevertheless, in carefully reading the manuscript I have noticed a number of grammar errors (as those related to the use of singular/plural in some verbs), plus the needs for some rephrasing. To make the reviewing process easier and faster, I'm therefore enclosing below some of the needed corrections. - In the manuscript title "influence" must be changed into "influences" - Page 5: "In all these cases, the synergy among genetic mutations.....promotes instead of promote. - Page 7: "a key CCSC biomarker that decreases in advanced (instead of advances) stages of CRC[20,29] - Page 8: "related to tumorigenesis and progression....", should be changed into "related to tumorigenesis and malignant progression..." - Page 12: This CRC staging contains four

consensus molecular subtypes (CMS) plus an unclassified group which are summarized in Table 2 (add "which") - Page 12 (bottom): and the interactions arising.... (instead of "that arose") - Page 13: Please, change into "This imbalance of the local microbiota promotes the restructuring of the intestinal environment and alters (verbs were in the plural form). - Page 14: Change "Although different factors produces changes in gut microbiota" into "Although different factors produce changes in gut microbiota" - Page 23: Please, use the following rephrasing or similar: "These features result in the use of microorganisms with potential preventive or palliative action in CRC currently receiving special attention. In fact, microbe-based therapies, and bacteria-mediated modulatory strategies are studied to be used for the delivery...." - Page 24: The following rephrasing should be preferred: "In the near future, the challenge will be the development of selective and combined therapies to promote: (1) CSC eradication; (2) eradication of cancer cells, owing to their phenotypic plasticity, even in the absence of CSC features; and (3) reduction of...." - Page 24, Conclusions Section: Please, rephrase as it follows or similar: "The knowledge described in the present review provides data that may promote future research aimed at addressing the complexity of the components in the CRC-associated microenvironment and microbiota. Compounding such complexity, CRC is not an isolated neoplasm, but it's rather emerging as a dynamic pathology" In addition, I have noticed an error within the body of Figure 1, bottom right part, where "Intermediateph enotypes" must be changed into "Intermediate phenotypes". Similarly, within the body of Figure 2, in bottom left part "Reestructuration" must be corrected. Indeed "Reestructuration" is not really a proper English term, and should be changed into "Restructuring" in this Figure, as well as throughout the text and in figure legends. In Table 1, please use the following changes in singular/plural verbs I : maintains their properties and evades the immune system miR-135 a/b and miR-17: Promote stemness..... miR-34 and miR-93: Inhibit stemness... miR-20a and miR-106 a/b: Repress TGF- β activity... Affect stem cell fate or.... miR-221/222 and miR-21: Induce the development and maintenance of CCSC On the whole, the above highlighted corrections are solely an indication for the needs of additional English polishing and rephrasing, which leads to my request for minor revision.