Reviewer's report

**Title:** DIFFERENTIAL GENE EXPRESSION IN THE MURINE GASTRIC FUNDUS LACKING INTERSTITIAL CELLS OF CAJAL

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**Reviewer:** Jan D. Huizinga

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Other (see below)

The paper by Daigo et al. used mouse gene arrays to compare fundic tissue from control mice and mice that do not have the cell type IC-IM. The objective obviously was to use this technique to learn more about the role of IC-IM, and the consequence of the W mutation in general. Several genes were found to be upregulated or downregulated and a few of these changes were confirmed by semi-quantitative RT-PCR. Unfortunately, the authors could not find yet any physiological relevance to any of these changes.

Since large gene arrays are notoriously unreliable, a point could be made that only those data confirmed by RT-PCR are worthy of publishing.

Although the paper is of limited interest at this moment, it may well be that if more knowledge becomes available about the genes that are up or downregulated, our understanding of the WWv mouse which is an important model for gut motor function, will increase.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.