Review of: "In Silico Investigation of Potential COVID-19-Associated MicroRNA Signatures"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript, like many others before it aims to identify those microRNAs (miRNAs) whose levels and activities are altered under COVID-19 infection, which is a worthy issue to investigate provided that it reveals a well-balanced picture with biologically meaningful insights. In this respect, the authors may consider the need to refer not only to the type and names of those miRNAs whose levels are changed under COVID-19 infection, but also the relative levels of their expression (which would alter profoundly their prospects to make a real impact) and even more importantly, the biological networks to which they belong and the extent to which those networks are affected under COVID-19 infection. Examples include the cholinergic network, which can block inflammation (Borovikova et al., 2000) and whose activities decline under aging (Poulson et al., 2019), which predicts altered impact with age of the identified miRNAs. Likewise, men to women differences in the observed miRNA changes (e.g. Madrer et al., 2020) must be considered.