

November 19, 2016

Dear Editor,

We appreciate your processing our paper.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

Title: Crucial roles of macrophages in the pathogenesis of autoimmune disease

Authors: Aya Ushio, Rieko Arakaki, Akiko Yamada, Masako Saito, Takaaki Tsunematsu, Yasusei Kudo, Naozumi Ishimaru

Name of Journal: World Journal of Immunology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 30093

The revised manuscript has been improved according to the comment of reviewer. The added description was highlighted by red.

Reviewer 00503126

Ushio, et. al. review the importance of macrophages by surveying the literature related to a variety of autoimmune diseases. The first half of the manuscript provides an overview of macrophage nomenclature and biology. This is followed by a brief survey of diseases in which macrophages contribute to the pathology. The breadth of diseases covered prevents any one disease being discussed in depth. The reader is not left with a thorough understanding of the pathogenesis of any disease. Focusing on a particular disease or diseases of similar pathogenesis would enable the reader to develop a complete picture of the importance of macrophages in the context of the complete mechanism of disease.

Thank so much for a precious comment of Reviewer 00503126.

In this paper, we focused on four autoimmune diseases including SLE, MS, RA and SS. As pointed out by Reviewer, the reader may be complicated by many different roles of macrophages in each autoimmune disease. However, current studies have demonstrated a lot of

functions and roles of macrophages in autoimmune responses. Therefore, comparison between representative autoimmune diseases would be important. Thus, the description has added to the Abstract and Introduction Section in the revised manuscript.

Thank you so much for processing our manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Naozumi Ishimaru". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Naozumi" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Ishimaru" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature is set against a light gray rectangular background.

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