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October 15, 2014

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Dear Drs. Balsano and Chuang:

Thank you for the recent evaluation of our manuscript (ESPS Manuscript NO: 13296) entitled "Micro RNAs (miRNAs) in the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)." We appreciate the strong support of the reviewers for the manuscript and found the comments provided have helped us to significantly improve the manuscript. We also appreciate the opportunity to respond to the reviewers' comments. An itemized response to each comment follows:

**Title:** Micro RNAs (miRNAs) in the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).

**Authors:** Glenn S. Gerhard and Johanna K. DiStefano

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13296

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

#### **Reviewer #1**

We appreciate the reviewer's assessment of the overall value of the work and have modified the text according to the points suggested below.

**1. Introduction:** - 3rd paragraph, line 7: today, there are more than 2500 miRNAs encoded by human genes (see <http://www.mirbase.org/cgi-bin/browse.pl>)

2. In vitro studies: - 2nd paragraph, line 15: change the word 'miR122' by 'miR-122'

3. In vivo studies: - 1st paragraph line 6: remove space in 'miR-200a' - 6th paragraph line 4: change the word 'then' by 'than'

4. Huma studies: - 1st paragraph line 15: change the word 'miR122' by 'miR-122' - 2nd paragraph line 2: remove the word 'RNA'

**Reviewer #2**

1. The authors provide a nice overview on all kinds of studies that were done to study miRNAs in the setting of NAFLD. (in vitro, in vivo, human tissue, human body fluids etc.). Also, they make a cross validation of all these studies at the end of their manuscript. Surprisingly, the data derived from all these different studies seem to differ considerably. A real overlap of data is not evident. Here, I think, the authors should extent their discussion on cross- validation and try and find a plausible reason for these discrepancies and also discuss the value of all these studies in front of the background of all these different results.

2. The authors should provide the full name of NASH (non- alcoholic steatohepatitis) prior to the use of the abbreviation in their manuscript.

We thank the reviewer for the positive evaluation and for the suggestion that we expand our discussion on the possible reasons for the differences across studies. We have expanded that section of the manuscript as suggested and have introduced NASH as an abbreviation.

Dr. Distefano and I are co-corresponding authors; I will serve as the contact author. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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