



Rome, 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2015

Dear Lian-Sheng Ma President and Company Editor-in Chief

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc,

Thank you for the last mail and comments to the paper n.19035 (Hepatitis C virus infection and thyroid autoimmune disorders: a model of interactions between the host and the environment, Martocchia et al.) for World Journal of Hepatology.

Please find enclosed the manuscript with the corrections, as follows:

- 1) We reduced information about general pathogenetic mechanisms of autoimmune diseases and we added details about the different types of autoimmune disorders (see Introduction on page 3);
- 2) We reduced the description on HCV structure to one sentence (see Environment-dependent factors in thyroid autoimmunity on page 6);
- 3) We modified the sentence on page 10 "Therefore the examination of HLA Ag in HCV patients before  $\alpha$ -IFN treatment may be an useful predictive tool to detect the predisposition to develop the specific AITD", mentioning the exact HLA as it follows: "Therefore, the examination of HLA (HLA-A2, -B35, -DRB1.03, -DRB1.11) in HCV patients before  $\alpha$ -IFN treatment may be an useful predictive tool to detect the predisposition to develop the specific AITD" (see The development of AITD during the  $\alpha$ -IFN treatment for HCV chronic hepatitis on page 8);
- 4) We modified the conclusions, removing the description of INF-therapy and we added a sentence about the link between the pathogenetic factors in AITD (host and environment) (see Conclusion on page 10);
- 5) We modified the numbers of references, in agreement with the text;
- 6) We corrected minor language errors.

Yours sincerely,

Francesca Pastore, MD, Antonio Martocchia, MD PhD