

April 14, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Manuscript 2386 Jacobi et al Rotavirus PEM Revised .doc).

Title: Acute effects of rotavirus and malnutrition on intestinal barrier function in neonatal piglets. A molecular nutrition study

Author: Sheila K. Jacobi, Adam J. Moeser, Anthony T. Blikslager, J. Marc Rhoads, Benjamin A. Corl, Robert J. Harrell, and Jack Odle

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

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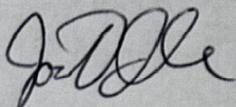
The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated.
2. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer
 - a. The abstract has been modified to a structured abstract as the reviewer and journal request.
 - b. Line 42 has been modified to define we detected lactase activity in the intestine.
 - c. Rotavirus gastroenteritis has been added to the list of key words.
 - d. We have changed the time to 00:00AM/PM time pattern for more easily understandable reading. We also have defined that rotavirus infection occurred at 10:00AM on day 0. The methods for rotavirus detection are reported in the methods. We detected the virus by using Virogen Rotatest kit as we have defined in parentheses in line 166 in the text.
 - e. In response to the author's comments we have included the suggested wording revisions as related body weight loss in lines 248-251. In addition we have added a figure three to show intestinal morphology changes in images captured from H&E stained slides from piglet intestine. We included these slides and left the tabulated data present in Table 1 with the statistical analysis. We have also reworded the text as the reviewer suggested using intestinal lactase and morphology, but also included the crypt depth and villus height terminology as we felt the tabulated data are reinforced by the morphological images we have presented. Because we added a Figure 3 the text has been revised to include Figures 4 and 5 and all written text and figures have been amended to reflect these changes.

3. References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Odle', written in a cursive style.

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