RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Interesting review on the involvement of Gal-3 and Il33/ST2 axis in the pathogenesis of NASH. The review is well structured, based on personal studies of the authors but also on pertinent bibliographic references. To improve this work I suggest the following modifications:

1) #reduce the number of abbreviations throughout the text and check carefully that all have been defined before being used; for example, sST2 is defined on page 15 but already used on page 6

The number of abbreviations are reduced and defined before used; sST2 is defined as suggested and corrected on page 6

2) #insert a table highlighting the mRNA targets affected by the HFD in Gal-3 KO and ST2 KO mice to easily identify common and specific targets

Table highlighting changes in mRNA levels of lipid metabolism and fibrosis related genes in HFD-fed Gal-3KO and ST2KO mice is inserted in revised version of the manuscript (Table 1)

3) #in figure 2 the difference in fibrosis intensity between WT C57 Bl/6 and BALBc mice is not evident

Figure 2 is modified as suggested, the representative images of liver fibrosis in WT C57 Bl/6 and BALB/c mice are provided

4) #could you provide further mecanistical détails on how Gal-3 modulates the mRNA levels of IL13, TLR4 mRNAs?

The role of galectin-3 in modulation of mRNA of IL-13, TLR4 is discussed.

Minor points:

5) Among the reference list, the journal names is lacking for references 4 and 7.

The journal names are added in references 4 and 7

6) You mentioned that sST2 and Gal-3 are approved biomarkers for myocardial infarction or fibrosis. Do they have similar diagnostic efficiency in these situations ?

The data regarding the diagnostic efficiency of sST2 and galectin-3 in heart pathology are added in the revised manuscript.

7) Have these markers being used for hepatic fibrosis diagnosis as non invasive Tools?

The data regarding the diagnostic efficiency of sST2 in hepatic fibrosis are added in the revised manuscript.