

The comments of the reviewers were highly insightful and enabled us to improve the quality of our manuscript. Thanks for your comprehensive reviews and delicate suggestions. The following pages are our responses to each comment from the reviewers. Revisions in the text are clearly highlighted using the "Track Changes" function in Microsoft Word. We hope that our revisions to the manuscript combined with our accompanying responses will be sufficient to render our manuscript suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Reviewer's comments

An elegant in vitro study demonstrating the impact of vitamin D3 upon Salmonella induced autophagy. The effect of vitamin D on autophagy in the intestine has been recently widely documented, so this is a timely study using an in vitro intestinal cell model. The figures demonstrate that vitamin D3 enhances Salmonella-induced upregulation of Vitamin D receptor (VDR) expression. Thus consequently, as autophagy is mediated through VDR, enhancement of expression potentially improves pathogen clearance and/or immunoregulation in inflammatory bowel disease, known to be associated with defects in autophagy. Implications of findings with regard to published data, is discussed thoroughly. Minor points More detail on the specific methods should be included, e.g. cell culture conditions such as % serum used, length of time in culture, passage number and confluency of

Caco2 cells. Such parameters are known to impact on cell responses. General comments such as 'Standard laboratory reagents were from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA) or Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA, USA)'. Are too vague and should be removed.

Responses:

1. More detail on the specific methods are included. Actually, most of the experiment methods are similar to those in our previous papers, which we have described in detail before. That's why we did not include detail on the methods but only cite references.
2. 'Standard laboratory reagents were from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA) or Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA, USA)' is removed.