

Dear editor,

We thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We thank you for your advice on our manuscript and would like to re-submit our revised manuscript entitled "Bacterial cell wall component sensing TLR2 and TLR4 in colorectal cancer" (ESPS Manuscript NO. 31906) for further consideration.

We have revised the issues brought up by the editor and reviewer, the point-by-point response can be found below. The changes in the manuscript are highlighted in yellow.

Sincerely,

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## **Responses to editor's requests**

"Please provide language certificate letter by professional English language editing companies (Classification of manuscript language quality evaluation is B)."

Answer: Language certificate was included in the initial submission of the manuscript.

"Please revise and perfect your manuscript according to peer-reviewers' comments."

Answer: We have revised the manuscript as guided. The changes are highlighted in yellow and our point-by-point response is below.

"You need to provide the grant application form(s) or certificate of funding agency for every grant."

Answer: We have included a summary of funding provided by funding agencies.

"AIM: No more than 20 words, and start with "To...""

Answer: We have corrected the aim section as suggested.

"Audio core tip: In order to attract readers to read your full-text article, we request that the author make an audio file describing your final core tip, it is necessary for final acceptance."

Answer: We have made an audio file describing our final core tip.

"Please finish the comments section. "

Answer: Apologies for it being missing from the original manuscript. We have added a comment section in revised manuscript.

"Please check that there are no repeated references! Please add PubMed citation numbers and DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors. Please revise throughout. The author should provide the first page of the paper without PMID and DOI. "

Answer: We have checked the references and made the required corrections.

### **Answering Reviewer**

Comment 1. "This manuscript based primarily on pathological diagnosis and methods, as well as pathological parameters. However I did not notice any contribution of a pathologist in the study. This should be corrected because without a pathologist the reliability of the data presented here will be argumentative."

Answer: Thank you for the observation. In our research group, prof. Tuomo Karttunen and prof. Markus Mäkinen are both experienced gastrointestinal pathologists. We have added more detailed information of the role of pathologists in the methods section. These experienced pathologists were involved in the initial assessment of colorectal carcinoma samples and in the construction of tissue arrays, and in the assessment of immunohistochemical stainings.

Comment 2. "Recent studies on CRC pointed out that there is a specific association between cytomegalovirus and the occurrence and development of colorectal cancer. It is suggested that this association may be facilitated by the TLR2 signaling pathway. This finding should be presented in the discussion section to provide to the readers new frontiers about colorectal carcinogenesis."

Answer: This is a relevant point and an interesting topic. We have added a paragraph considering cytomegalovirus and colorectal cancer in the discussion section.

Comment 3. "Color figures are not nice and should be revised."

Answer: We have revised the figures by using higher magnification to show the necessary details, and by revising the legend accordingly.