Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the review of our manuscript entitled: "Prevalence of *IFNL3* rs4803217 single nucleotide polymorphism and clinical course of chronic hepatitis C".

We sincerely appreciate all valuable comments and suggestions, which helped us to improve the quality of the article. Our responses to the Reviewers' comment are described below in a point-to-point manner. Appropriated changes, suggested by the Reviewers, has been introduced to the manuscript (highlighted within the document). Moreover, one author, along with her affiliation and contribution to the work, has been added.

The article has been prepared in accordance with *World Journal of Gastroenterology – Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision: Basic Study.* According to the Guidelines we added Peer-review subsection into the Comments section. Let me emphasize our full readiness to make any further improvements to the manuscript.

I hereby affirm that this manuscript or a major portion thereof has not been published previously, accepted for publication elsewhere and it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The work has been conducted under internationally accepted ethical standards. All authors have contributed significantly to the work and have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript. Moreover, we declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

We hope that our manuscript will be acceptable for publication in **World Journal of Gastroenterology.**

Yours sincerely,

Danuta Januszkiewicz Lewandowska, Prof. MD, PhD
corresponding author

**Responses to the reviewer's comments**

We would like to thank Reviewers for taking the time and effort necessary to review the manuscript. We sincerely appreciate all valuable comments and suggestions, which helped us to improve the quality of the manuscript.

- **Reviewed by 00502973**

**Comments to authors:**

In the current submission, the authors reported the association of several SNPs of IFNL3 (IL28B) gene with clinical outcome by IFN and RBV treatment in Polish patients infected with HCV genotype 1 and found that rs4803217 was the most relevant SNP to SVR as well as relapse of HCV infection. This report would be important in HCV patients' treatment by administration of IFN and RBV although such a regimen has largely been replaced by nucleoside analog DAAs. In general, the English of this manuscript was acceptable. One concern existed: In Results, the author wrote "After adjustment for staging, all relationships with SVR, observed in dominant model, did not remain significant (for rs4803217: CC/CA+AA: ORadjusted=8.357; 95% CI: 3.013-23.181; P<0.0001; dose of C allele: ORadjusted=4.310; 95% CI: 1.956-9.5; P=0.0002) (Table 2)."However, it shown that all the P values was significant. This should be explained.

**Response:**

We would like to thank the Reviewer for the comments and for classification of the manuscript as very good.

- *This report would be important in HCV patients' treatment by administration of IFN and RBV although such a regimen has largely been replaced by nucleoside analog DAAs.*

Thank you for this comment. It is partially the limitation of our study. We discussed this issue in the penultimate paragraph of the discussion section.

- *One concern existed: In Results, the author wrote "After adjustment for staging, all relationships with SVR, observed in dominant model, did not remain significant (for*

*rs4803217: CC/CA+AA: ORadjusted=8.357; 95% CI: 3.013-23.181; P<0.0001; dose of C allele: ORadjusted=4.310; 95% CI: 1.956-9.5; P=0.0002) (Table 2)."However, it shown that all the P values was significant. This should be explained.*

We would like to apologize for this mistake. After adjustment for staging the results remained significant as far as dominant model and allelic dosage analysis is concerned for rs4803217, rs12979860 and rs12980275 SNPs. The correct sentence should be as follows: "After adjustment for staging, relationship with SVR, observed in dominant model and in allelic dosage analysis, remained significant for all SNPs besides rs8099917 (for rs4803217: CC/CA+AA: $OR_{adjusted}$ = 8.357; 95% CI: 3.013-23.181; $P$ < 0.0001; dose of C allele: $OR_{adjusted}$ = 4.310; 95% CI: 1.956-9.5; $P$ = 0.0002) (Table 2)." The sentence has been changed and highlighted.

- **Reviewed by 01221188**

**Comments to authors:**

Minor revision Discussion is too long and should be shortened.

**Response:**

We would like to thank the Reviewer for the comment and for classification of the manuscript as very good and priority publishing.

According to the Reviewer's comment, the discussion section has been shortened (highlighted in the manuscript), mainly in the paragraph describing studies performed by McFarland et al. We decided not to extensively shorten paragraphs in which we discussed: differences in frequency of rs4803217 genotypes, association between rs4803217 SNP and severity of CHC, relation between rs4803217 SNP and anti-HCV treatment outcome as well as comparison of association with SVR between rs4803217 and other *IFNL3* SNPs. It is due to the fact that we would like to fully discuss all these issues. Moreover, mention about the possible significance of rs4803217 testing in the era of DAAs as well as the summary paragraph have been unchanged.