

September 12, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS Manuscript NO 387-edited).

**Title:** Aflatoxins, hepatocellular carcinoma, and public health

**Authors:** Arvin Magnussen, Mansour A. Parsi

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 387

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

**Reviewer suggestions and our answers.**

This is an interesting review/editorial that summarizes epidemiological aspects of the association between aflatoxin and hepatocellular carcinoma. It is well written, updated and informative. I only have some suggestions that may improve the manuscript.

**Answer:** We appreciate the kind words of the reviewer

1. Perhaps it would be interesting to include some additional information on the cellular/molecular mechanisms of aflatoxin-mediated hepatocarcinogenesis.

**Answer:** As suggested additional information on the cellular/molecular mechanisms of aflatoxin-mediated hepatocarcinogenesis has been added to the revised manuscript.

2. Are there any data on aflatoxin presence in foods produced or imported in Europe?. Are foods imported from Asia and Africa into the US and Europe routinely tested for aflatoxin presence?.

**Answer:** In Europe, as in the United States, there are strict regulations and testing of finished foods and feeds in order to prevent exposure to deleterious levels of aflatoxin.

3. Is there any information on the minimum exposure to aflatoxin required to induce HCC appearance in humans?.

**Answer:** Although no cut-off points have been established, under guidelines from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), human foods must contain less than 20 parts per billion (ppb).

4. It would be interesting to include some references (if there are any) in the texts dealing with "Better sampling methods", "Development of resistant cultivars" and "Development of competitive and antagonistic microorganisms".

**Answer:** Appropriate references have been added to the revised manuscript.

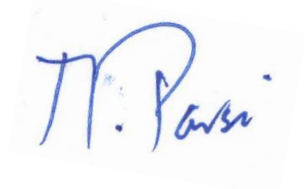
Minor.

The different species of *Aspergillus* should be always written in italics.

**Answer:** In the revised manuscript, different species of *Aspergillus* have been written in italics.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. Parsi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and a clear "Parsi".

Mansour A. Parsi, MD, MPH

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