

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



April 24, 2018

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 39040-minireview.doc).

**Title:** HBV pathogenesis: Fresh insights into HBV RNA

**Author:** Kazuma Sekiba, Motoyuki Otsuka, Motoko Ohno, Mari Yamagami, Takahiro Kishikawa, Tatsunori Suzuki, Rei Ishibashi, Takahiro Seimiya, Eri Tanaka, Kazuhiko Koike

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 39040

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

1 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the editor and reviewer

(1) **Editor:**

**Response:**

*We thank the editors for the valuable comments. We revised the manuscript according to the comments as below.*

*Changes to the text are underlined and highlighted in red.*

- 1. A language certificate letter by professional English language editing companies is attached.*
- 2. Manuscript number is provided.*
- 3. ORCID numbers for all authors are provided.*
- 4. Grant support information is provided.*
- 5. Audio core tip is attached.*
- 6. All authors' abbreviation names and manuscript title have been added.*
- 7. No repeated references are confirmed.*
- 8. We uploaded the original ppt files as Image files.*

(2) **Reviewer # 02861124:**

**Comments to Authors:** The mini-review presents the current knowledge on the role of HBV RNA molecules in its pathogenesis. Overall the gathered information are very informative and important for HBV researchers and clinicians.

**Response:** *We thank the Reviewer #1 for his/her critical reading of the manuscript and positive comments.*

**Comments to Authors:** However, the manuscript is not well written and greatly lacks citations. My suggestions/comments are highlighted (track change) in the attached manuscript file.

Major: Introduction- It lacks vital information of the virus and needs to be rewritten properly. It would be great to give some details on how HBV RNA intermediate is formed- its known.

**Response:** *We thank the Reviewer for raising these issues. In accordance with this suggestion, we added*

*sentences and citations in the INTRODUCTION as follows;*

*(Page 5, line 2-7.) Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a small enveloped DNA virus which belongs to the Hepadnaviridae virus family. HBV may establish a chronic infection in the liver, which can, in turn, lead to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Although HBV has infected humans for at least 500 years [1], the virus was not discovered until 1966 [2], and Dane et al. identified the virus particle in 1970 by electron microscopy [3]. After these findings, the antiviral therapy has developed;*

*(Page 6, line 5-8.) The viral genes are transcribed by the cellular RNA polymerase II from cccDNA. Two enhancers designated enhancer I (EnhI) and enhancer II (EnhII) have been identified in the HBV genome, which drive and regulate the expression of the complete viral transcripts [18].*

**Comments to Authors:** Figure legends- If the figures are not constructed by the authors or modified from the original, the original source or reference must be cited.

**Response:** *While we do understand the Reviewer's concern, all of the figures were originally constructed by ourselves for this mini-review article, using an Adobe Illustrator CC software.*

*We sincerely thank Reviewer #1 for the critical reading of our manuscript and the constructive comments, which have helped us to improve our manuscript substantially.*

We thank the editors and the reviewers again for the kind consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

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