

Dear Dr Fang Fang Ji,

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this invited manuscript entitled "*Premalignant lesions and gastric cancer: current understanding*". Please find attached the results of the edited manuscript addressing reviewer questions.

Reviewer one: no change required

Reviewer two: no changes required

Reviewer three:

- 1. The review needs appropriate illustration. A composition of histological images is necessary to illustrate the findings to the reader - *addressed*
- 2. Pathways of neuroendocrine differentiation in metaplasia and atrophy should be shortly addressed. - *addressed*
- 3. The paragraph "Cellular and molecular pathways of progression" gives not the pathways of interest. There is substantial re-writing necessary with annotation of the different molecular pathways of interest. A scheme should be given. - *addressed*
- 4. abbreviation BO is introduced twice – addressed

We hope that you find the current manuscript of sufficient quality for publication. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Andrew Buckle
On behalf of Professor Boussioutas and Athanasios Koulis