

## COVER LETTER

Editors of World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Sirs,

Please find online submitted the manuscript (research article): Metabolic Syndrome attenuates Ulcerative Colitis: correlation with IL-10 and Galectin-3 expression by

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Following your response to our previously submitted article, we resubmitted online the revised manuscript according to the specific comments of the reviewer.

We provide responses to all of the reviewers` comments. We revised the manuscript, figures and figure legends and highlighted the changes we have made in the revised paper. Below we provide the point to point responses to the comments of the Reviewer. We also adopted all the suggestions made in the comments of the manuscript and highlighted them.

The final revised manuscript has been seen and approved by all the authors and they have given necessary attention to ensure the integrity of the work. All authors declare no conflict of interest.

The authors hereby confirm that neither the manuscript nor any part of it, or any similar manuscript has been published, in press or is being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for its content.

Thank you for considering the resubmission of the manuscript.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

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## **POINT TO POINT RESPONSES TO THE REVIEWERS' COMMENTS**

Reviewer #1:

**M&M:** In this section the authors have included aspects that should appear in the section of results (i.e. Laboratory findings and clinical features of all patients (52 male and 37 female) are presented in Table 1).

**Response:** According to suggestions, section from material and methods is now in the section of results.

Analyzing inflammatory parameters would have been desirable to include references to smoking (is it possible?).

**Response:** Following Reviewer's suggestion, we included smoking status of patients in our study. However, there was no statistical difference of percentage of smokers between UC patients with and without MetS. These data is presented in Table 1.

Did anyone receive statins?

**Response:** Treatment with statins was one of excluding criteria, as it may affect inflammatory processes in patients. We thanks reviewer for pointing out our omission. Now, we added statins in M&M section, as an excluding criteria.

**Results:** In this section the authors have included aspects that should appear in the section of M&M (i.e. according to these criteria, for the diagnosis of the metabolic syndrome, it is necessary that patients have at least 3 of 5 disorders: disglycemia (fasting plasma glucose higher than 5.5 mM and/or 2h-post load plasma...).

**Response:** As the Review suggested, the aspects that were part of the Results are now in the section of Material and methods.

Because the authors have employed clinical, endoscopic and histological scores, these should be taken into account for analyzing at least the fecal and serum cytokines levels.

**Response:** We analyzed fecal and serum cytokines levels according to clinical, endoscopic and histological scores in UC patients with and without MetS. Obtained results are inserted in the Results section and presented in figure 4.

**Discussion:** It is not easy to read. The new discussion should include the data that have been previously requested

**Response:** We have changed Discussion section and the data that have been previously requested are now included in discussion section.

**Figure/Graphics:** Should be modified according to the previous suggestions.

**Response:** Figures are modified according to suggestions and we made one new figure (Figure 4) presenting new evaluations that Reviewers requested. Figure 4 from previous version of manuscript now became Figure 5.

Reviewer #2:

The authors described clinically and histologically milder disease with MetS in UC. Then, cytokine levels were different between with and without MetS in UC. The reviewer would like to know serum levels of cytokines or fecal levels of Galectin-3 between with and without MetS in especially same clinical, endoscopic or histological activity index or scores in UC. Then, we know the correlation between UC and cytokine levels with or without MetS. The authors should calculate serum cytokine levels and fecal Galectin-3 levels in the same clinical, endoscopic or histological index or scores with and without MetS in UC.

**Response:** Following Reviewer's suggestion, we analyzed serum level of cytokines and fecal level of Galectin-3 in groups with and without MetS in especially same clinical, endoscopic and histopathological stage of UC, respectively. These results are now inserted in the Results section and presented in figure 4.