

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 31, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5631-review.docx).

Title: Role of cetuximab in first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer

Author: Miguel J. Sotelo Lezama, Beatriz García-Paredes, Carlos Aguado de la Rosa, Javier Sastre Valera, Eduardo Díaz-Rubio García

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5631

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

1 The format has been updated

2 The language has been polished

3 Core tip has been added

4 Modifications were done according to the reviewer suggestions as follows:

Reviewer 02520984

Comment: I am missing some more detail on the molecular mechanisms involved in response to Cetuximab. Although the topic is pretty well known in the field of colorectal cancer, It will be helpful to write a couple of lines describing the EGFR pathway to help understanding the role of KRAS as the predictor to anti-EGFR therapies.

Response: We have added a paragraph in the section "INTRODUCTION", in which we describe the EGFR pathway (highlighted in yellow color).

Comment: Another point that I am missing is a more speculative last paragraph discussing future uses of additional biomarkers that could help to better predict responders to cetuximab.

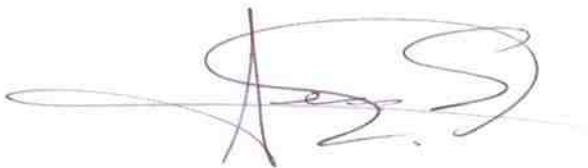
Response: We added data regarding efficacy of cetuximab according to RAS mutational status (KRAS and NRAS). See section "KRAS AND OTHER BIOMARKERS IN COLORECTAL CANCER" (highlighted in yellow color). We have also added a paragraph regarding biomarkers in the section "CONCLUSIONS" (highlighted in yellow color).

Overall, we would like to thank the reviewer remarks which have help us to improve substantially our manuscript.

5 References and typesetting were corrected. We have added the reference 29 (highlighted in yellow color).

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sotelo Lezama', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

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