

March 11, 2021

Lian-Sheng Ma

Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

*World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for forwarding the referee's reports on our manuscript. We also appreciated your advice and encouragement. Our manuscript has been revised according to the referee's comments. We have provided point-by-point responses below and the changes in the manuscript have been highlighted in red font.

**Reviewer #1 comments:**

*Authors in the Limitations section should put emphases on the lack of determination of IL-16, which is the main cytokine involved in the so called chronic low-grade inflammation or meta inflammation of NAFLD/NASH, as evident in ....Front Immunol. 2020; 11: 769.*

Response: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestion. The cytokine the reviewer suggested appears to be IL-6, but not IL-16. Another study has indicated IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , and TNF- $\alpha$  as the cytokines involved in dietary-induced low-grade inflammation in the liver (Guerra et al., Biomedicines, 2020). We have referred to the cytokines involved in the chronic low-grade inflammation or meta inflammation of NAFLD/NASH in the discussion (Page 23, lines 455-457), limitation (Page 25, lines 509-510), and reference (Page 37, lines 756-761) sections.

*Authors should clearly state in the Introduction section that the mechanisms underlying NAFLD/NASH are far from being clarified and the gut-liver axis is only a part of the pathogenesis of this disease, because of the complex, multidirectional pathophysiology involved in NAFLD as clearly evidenced in...J. Clin. Med. 2020, 9(1), 15.*

Response: Thank you very much for this important suggestion. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewer's suggestion (Page 7, lines 133-136), and added the reference (Page 31, lines 624-626).

*Authors should put emphasis on the fact that the animal models do not completely mirror the human NAFLD/NASH, thus a note of caution in translating these results is mandatory, as*

*evident in ....Nutrients. 2017 Oct; 9(10): 1072.*

Response: Thank you very much for this important comment. We totally agree with you and have revised the manuscript accordingly (Pages 21-22, lines 433-437) and added the reference (Page 36, lines 743-745).

*Authors should present their data as means plus/minus SD and not SEM, because readers are interested in knowing the dispersion of values but not the price vision of the mean, due to the paucity of observations in each group, i.e., seven.*

Response: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestion. We have changed SEM into SD for all data (Fig 1-6, Table 3-4). In Table 4, the mean values are the same, but there were miscalculations in the SEM, which were partially corrected when changing to SD.

*Finally, authors should evidence in the Limitations section the modest sample size of each group of the study.*

Response: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestion. We have checked the sample size and added the sentence in the limitations section (Page 25, lines 510-512).

#### **Science editor comments:**

*The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered.*

Response: We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewer's suggestions.

*Self-cited references: There is 1 self-cited reference. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%.*

Response: This manuscript includes only one self-cited reference.

*References recommendations:*

Response: We have added the references in the revised manuscript according to the reviewer's suggestion. We believe that these references are appropriate for the revision.

*Issues raised: (1) The language classification is Grade C. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend.*

Response: Thank you very much for the recommendation regarding the professional English language editing companies. Unfortunately, we do not have enough time to request a new English language editing service within 14 days. Therefore, we have

requested a re-edit by Editage, a professional English language editing company, and have uploaded the English Language Certificate. We believe that the language quality has improved and is now adequate for publication. If the quality still does not meet the standards of the journal, please give us the time to request the English language editing services of one of the recommended companies.

*(2) The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).*

Response: We have uploaded the documents.

*(3) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.*

Response: We have uploaded the original figure documents and original Table documents.

*(4) The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text.*

Response: We have added the "Article Highlights" section (Page 26-28, lines 527-577).

### **Company editor-in-chief**

*The quality of the English language of the manuscript does not meet the requirements of the journal. Before final acceptance, the author(s) must provide the English Language Certificate issued by a professional English language editing company.*

Response: We have requested a re-edit of the English language from Editage, a professional English language editing company, and have uploaded the English Language Certificate. We believe that the manuscript is now publication-ready. If the quality of the language is still not considered up to the expected standards of the journal, please give us the time to solicit the services of a recommended company.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kazuhiro Katada, MD, PhD.

Corresponding author

Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine.

465 Kajii-cho, Hirokouji Kawaramchi, Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto 602-8566, Japan

Tel: +81-75-2515519

Fax: +81-75-2510710

E-mail address: [katada@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp](mailto:katada@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp)