

## **Response to the editor:**

We thank the editor for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript, and the reviewer for his/her constructive criticism through which we believe that we have improved the quality of our manuscript.

The criticisms raised by the reviewer have been addressed; all changes in the text have been underlined in **BOLD**.

We have also removed two of our self-cited references (thus the number of our self-cited References decreased from 13→11), to reduce the self-referencing rate at less than 10%, as requested.

We hope that the revised manuscript may be considered suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

## **Reviewer #1:**

**Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)**

**Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)**

**Conclusion: Minor revision**

Specific Comments to Authors: The authors focused on the new insight on the brain-gut-liver axis in the MAFLD, which is a novel and interest topic. However, there is still some content need to be improved. 1、 The introduction in the paragraph of "MAFLD-insulin resistance-inflammation: a vicious circle" pays more attention to pathological changes and the relationship between pathological indicators. Lack of introduction to the vicious circle. 2、 There are still more causes of gut microbiota, which should be summarized further in "Gut-Microbiota" part。 3、 With the subtitle of "Tissue targeted animal models", the following content should involve model construction and comparison; It could be changed to "the results of tissue targeted animal models".

## **Response:**

We thank the reviewer for his positive statement.

1. The chapter "MAFLD-insulin resistance-inflammation: a vicious circle" has been modified to introduce the vicious circle. Also a reference where this circle is explained in detail has been added (*Chen et al. Lipids in Health and Disease (2017) 16:203*).
2. The reviewer is correct. We have expanded this part further.
3. Indeed in this chapter or aim was to solely present the results yielded from studies where tissue targeted animal models where studied in relation to MAFLD, but not to provide model construction and comparison, as this would require further expansion of the length of our review, and perhaps it would not be directly pertinent to our topic. We have thus modified the title of this chapter in "***Results yielded from tissue targeted animal models***", to state more explicitly.