

Dear Editor,
World Journal of Gastroenterology,

Ref.: Invited manuscript ID: 03488308, Manuscript No.: 66423 (Review).

Many thanks for conditionally accepting our article 'COVID-19: Effect on Gastroenterology & Hepatology service provision & training: lessons from the past, provision at present & planning for the future'. Please see below the responses to reviewer's & editor's comments;

Reviewer's specific comments to authors:

- 1- It is interesting to add an illustration in the end of each part to summarize it.
 - Many thanks. We have added Figures at end of each section.
- 2- It is interesting to write more information about the second and the third waves in page 26, when did they start? What are the main characteristics...etc.
 - Notes added relevant to the scope of article, keeping in view that this article is not focused on clinical characteristics of COVID-19, but rather focuses on effects of the pandemic on service provision and training.
- 3- I am wondering if the authors took permissions for the taken illustrations or not, if not, It is required.
 - Please note, all the illustrations in the article are made from scratch by the authors and represent original work. These are not copied from other articles. Only the data sources are explored and duly acknowledged for referencing. We have added the phrase "adapted from" to clear any confusion for Figure 1.

Science Editor's comments:

- 1- Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the COVID-19 effect on gastroenterology & hepatology services & training. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade A; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This is an interesting review. However, there are some issues need to be addressed. It is interesting to add an illustration in the end of each part to summarize it. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and (3) Format: There is 1 table and 4 figures. (4) References: A total of 148 references are cited, including 97 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are no self-cited references; and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishingsystem immediately.
- 2- Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A.

- 3- Academic norms and rules: The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search.
- 4- Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG.
- 5- Issues raised:
 - i. I found the title was more than 18 words. The title should be no more than 18 words.
 - Title modified.
 - ii. I found the authors did not provide the original figures. 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
 - Provided in re-submission.
 - iii. I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout.
 - References cross checked and updated. Please note that not all the references have PMID and DOI attached to the articles, hence these do not appears against some references.
- 6- Re-Review: Not required.
- 7- Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

Company editor-in-chief's comments:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

- Many thanks.

King Regards

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