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December 5th, 2013

Jin-Lei Wang, Director, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Co., Limited

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6758- revised.doc).

Name of Journal: World Journal of *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript No: 6758

Title: Characteristics of Gastric Cancer in Asia

Authors: Rubayat Rahman, MD, MPH; Akwi W. Asombang, MD, MPH, and Jamal A. Ibdah, MD, PhD

The manuscript has been updated.

- (1) Format has been updated as per revision policies for reviews.
- (2) References and typesetting were corrected.
- (3) Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers as follows:

Reviewer 00504152:

The manuscript is interesting dealing with the epidemiology of gastric cancer in Asia. Attention to the following issues would further strengthen the present manuscript: 1) Please explain the mode of transmission of H. pylori. 2) Do you have any data regarding prevalence of blood groups in Asia and their association with seroprevalence of H. pylori? 3) Please correct any grammatical and punctuation errors throughout the manuscript.

Author's Response: We appreciate the reviewer comments and interest in our manuscript. We have modified the manuscript to address the reviewer comments. A statement was added to the revised manuscript about the mode of transmission of H. pylori (added references: 36 and 37). Studies did not find any correlation between seroprevalence of H. pylori and blood group (added references: 47 and 48). Grammatical and punctuation errors were corrected throughout the manuscript.

Reviewer 01557574:

Dear Author, this article should be publish at WJGO. It gives correct and new information to the gastroenterologists and other doctors about Hp and gastric cancer. It is well documented. Sincerely yours.

Author's Response: We thank the reviewer for finding our review topic interesting and well documented.

Reviewer 02446450:

This is comprehensive overview of the current epidemiology of gastric cancer with an emphasis on Asia. There is a fair bit of repetition, especially in the introduction. The high incidence of gastric cancer in Asia is entirely due to high incidence in Eastern Asia. Why is this? While the authors provide a nice description of the epidemiology of gastric cancer, I cannot help thinking that they have missed an opportunity to explore this further. H. pylori subtypes are touched upon, what about tumor genotypes? Is there a difference in tumor biology? What about different outcomes stage for stage between different populations? And response to chemotherapy/surgery outcomes? Perhaps this could form the basis of further work.

Authors' Response: We thank the reviewer for comments. The introduction was revised to avoid any repetition of information. The high incidence of gastric cancer in Eastern Asia secondary to genotype and seroprevalence of H. pylori along with epigenetic factors as noted in the revised manuscript. A statement about the relationship between H. pylori subtypes and tumor genotypes and biology was added (added reference: 49). Outcomes to different modalities of treatments were also explored and added in the revised manuscript (added references: 10, 59, 66, 67 and 68).

We believe that the comments made by the reviewers have greatly improved this review. We have made all necessary changes as suggested.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamal A. Ibdah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jamal A. Ibdah, MD, PhD