



CHECKLIST OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC EDITORS

Manuscript page number (Without Figures): 39 Rate: 6.2 CNY per page

Editing Fee: 241.8 CNY

Figure count: 7 Figure handling time: 0 min Rate: 1 CNY per min

Editing Fee: 0 CNY

XML and PDF converting time: 0 min Rate: 1 CNY per min

Editing Fee: 0 CNY

Manuscript word count: 10991

Total Editing Fee: 241.8 CNY

Item No.	Specific items for verification	Comments Yes=[Y] No= [N]
1	<p><i>General Information of the Manuscript</i></p> <p>Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology</p> <p>Manuscript NO.: 68607</p> <p>Column: Basic Study</p> <p>Title: Effects of viremia and CD4 recovery on the gut “microbiome-immunity” axis in naïve HIV-1 patients undergoing ART therapy</p> <p>Authors: Edda Russo, Giulia Nannini, Gaetana Sterrantino, Seble Tekle Kiros, Vincenzo Di Pilato, Marco Coppi, Simone Baldi, Elena Niccolai, Federica Ricci, Matteo Ramazzotti, Marco Pallecchi, Filippo Lagi, Gian Maria Rossolini, Alessandro Bartoloni, Gianluca Bartolucci and Amedeo Amedei</p> <p>Reviewer code: 05420211</p>	[Y]

	<p>First decision: 2021-06-30 03:11</p> <p>Scientific Editor: Ya-Juan Ma</p> <p>Date of signature: <u>1/11/2022</u> (month/day/year)</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p><i>Editorial Office's Comments</i></p> <p>Science Editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a basic study about Effects of viremia and CD4 recovery on the gut “microbiome-immunity” axis in naïve HIV-1 patients undergoing ART therapy. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade C; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The present manuscript investigated the fecal microbial composition, serum, and fecal microbial metabolites and serum cytokines’ profile of naïve patients before starting ART and after reaching virological suppression after 24 weeks of ART therapy. It was found that the English language used in the manuscript needs major improvements as there are some punctuation and grammatical mistakes present throughout the manuscript. The figures required the proper explanation and caption. Moreover, research models are not discussed in an understandable manner, the introduction section is poor, which reflects that the author needs a more comprehensive way of thinking. It is obvious that the quality of the manuscript does not fulfil the standards of the journal, therefore should be reconsidered after major revision. Specific comments: 1. The Abstract needs to be revised, especially the results section. 2. Please add more strong keywords. 3. Page 2: “The microbiota-immune axis springs up from a mutual interplay</p>	<p>[Y]</p>



between human microbiota and the immune system.” Please revise the sentence, this is just like the author uses an online spinner tool to remove the plagiarism. 4. Page 3: “Converging data from many cross-sectional studies suggest that the gut microbiota (GM) changes over the progression of HIV infection [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16].” This is not the right way to insert so many references in one place, please omit unnecessary references. 5. Page 3: “It is known that increased relative abundance of pro-inflammatory bacteria has been associated with increased plasma viremia.” Can you please add the name of that bacteria? 6. Page 3: “It is known that increased relative abundance of pro-inflammatory bacteria....” Please merge this paragraph to the previous paragraph. 7. Page 3: “Its metabolites are also involved in regulating vital host activities.” Please add few activities to support this statement. 8. Page 3: “Serum and fecal microbial metabolites and serum cytokine profile of naïve patients before starting ART...” Please make sure it is naïve or native? 9. Page 3, The whole introduction section is general. Authors are advised to revise the introduction section carefully and add more data to support the problem statement. It is advised to add literature in the introduction section to create a research gap. 10. Page 5: Total genomic DNA was extracted from frozen (-80°C) stool samples, collected at different timepoints (weeks 0, 24)...” Why was the sample not taken after every week of dose administration? 11. Page 5: “Statistical analyses on ASVs representing the bacterial community were performed in R (R Core

Team, 2014) with the help of the packages phyloseq 1.26.1....” All information should be moved to at the end under the statistical analysis section. 12. Page 6: “Each sample was thawed, weighted (between 0.5-1.0 g) and added to sodium bicarbonate 10mM....” There is always a space between a unit and a value (10 mM). 13. Page 7: “Free fatty acids determination by GC-MS analysis: This heading contains repeated information, please merged with the previous heading or omit. 14. Page 7: “A value under the Low Limit of Quantification (LLOQ) was considered as 0 pg/ml.” Somewhere the author use ‘ml’ and somewhere ‘mL’, please follow the same trend throughout the manuscript. 15. Page 9: “. In particular, the genera Ruminococcus 2 and Succinivibrio were ...” Please make sure that genera Ruminococcus 2 is correct. 16. Page 9: “The slight changes to the composition of the microbiome we observed (only at order and genus level) led us to ask whether the GM metabolic activity might also be changed....” Please revise the sentence. 17. Page 9: “Did not reveal any significant change after 24 weeks of therapy for each patient (data not shown).” There is no need to mention ‘data not shown’, it decreases the worth of study. 18. Page 10: “As known, gut microbial dysbiosis is linked to aberrant immune responses ...” Can you please add more data to support this statement in relation to your results? 19. Page 10: “We documented significant changes in isobutyric (p=0,01), isovaleric (p=0,04) and 2-methylbutyric (p=0,04) acids ...” Please use full stop (.) between values (p=0.01) instead comma (,) . 20. Page 11: “In order



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to shed the light ...” Please revise these words. 21. Page 12: “Some authors have implied that ART may enhance dysbiosis, which is consistent with the high frequency of gastrointestinal side effects with this treatment {Lozupone, 2014 #3582}, [17], [42].” Reference is missing, please correct it. 22. Page 14: There is no need to separately add a conclusion section in this type of study. It should be merged to the discussion section at the end and should be a single paragraph with key observations and strong future recommendations. 23. Authors are advised to proofread the whole manuscript to overcome grammatical mistakes. 24. Authors are advised to add a list of abbreviations. 25. The figures and table need appropriate captions. 26. The headings and subheadings need to be revised especially in results section. These questions or suggestions raised by the reviewers should be answered or revised; (3) Format: There are 1 table and 7 figures; (4) References: A total of 70 references are cited, including 11 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 0 self-cited references. (6) References recommendations: There were no references recommendations by reviewers. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B. A language editing certificate issued by Elisangela Miceli, PhD was provided. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement, and the Institutional Review Board Approval Form. Written informed consent was waived. No academic misconduct was found in the



	<p>Google/Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited Manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5 Issues raised: nothing. 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.</p> <p>Company Editor-in-Chief: 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.</p>	
3	The fixed headings are copied.	[Y]
4	The title concisely summarizes the main topic of the study and is not too long (no more than 18 words). Words such as 'exploration', 'research', 'analysis', 'observation', and 'investigation' are avoided. The title does not start with 'The' and does not include any Arabic numbers or uncommon abbreviations.	[Y]
5	A short running title is provided (no more than 6 words).	[Y]
6	The authors' full family (sur)names and full/abbreviated first names are listed on the title page and are consistent with those listed in the signed BPG Copyright License Agreement form.	[Y]

7	<p>The ‘Author contributions’ passage describes the specific contribution(s) made by each author. The author’s names are listed in the following format: full family (sur)name followed by abbreviated first and middles names.</p> <p><i>e.g.</i>, “Wang CL and Liang L contributed equally to this work; Wang CL, Liang L, Fu JF, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM designed the research study; Wang CL, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM performed the research; Xue JZ and Lu JR contributed new reagents and analytic tools; Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF analyzed the data; and Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF wrote the manuscript. All authors have read and approve the final manuscript.”</p>	[Y]
8	<p>The ‘Supported by’ statement describes the source(s) of financial support and includes the corresponding identification number(s) and program ID(s) if available, and contains no spelling errors.</p>	[Y]
9	<p>The ‘Corresponding author’ passage provides the corresponding author’s full first and family (sur)names, abbreviated title (<i>e.g.</i>, MD, PhD), affiliated institute’s name and complete postal address (including zip code) and e-mail (written in all lowercase), and contains no spelling errors.</p>	[Y]
10	<p>The Manuscript Tracking information (<i>i.e.</i>, Received, Peer review started, First decision, Revised, Accepted, Article in press, and Published online) are provided along with the corresponding editor and date for each item, and contain no spelling errors.</p>	[Y]
11	<p>The Abstract section is formatted according to the article-specific style (structured <i>vs</i> unstructured) and word count thresholds, as follows:</p> <p><u>Commentary, Frontier, Diagnostic Advances, Medical Ethics, Minireview, Review, Therapeutics Advances, and Topic Highlight:</u></p> <p>Non-structured abstract that is no less than 200 words.</p> <p><u>Field of Vision, Case Report and Letter to the Editor:</u></p>	[Y]

	<p>Non-structured abstract that is no less than 150 words.</p> <p><u>Research articles:</u> Structured abstract with subsections for AIM (no more than 20 words); METHODS (no less than 80 words); RESULTS (no less than 120 words); and CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words).</p>	
12	<p>The 'Key words' list provides 5-10 keywords that reflect the main content of the study. The first letter of each keyword is capitalized, and each keyword is separated by a semicolon.</p>	[Y]
13	<p>The "citation" contains authors' names and manuscript title. The name of the first author should be typed in bold letters; the family (sur) name of all authors should be typed with the first letter capitalized, followed by their abbreviated first and middle initials. For example, an article by Jae Moon Yoon, Ki Young Son, Chun Sick Eom, Daniel Durrance, Sang Min Park will be written as Yoon JM, Son KY, Eom CS, Durrance D, Park SM. Pre-existing diabetes mellitus increases the risk of gastric cancer: A meta-analysis. <i>World J Gastroenterol</i> 2019; In press</p>	[Y]
14	<p>The 'Core tip' provides a summary (less than 100 words) of the study that outlines the most innovative and important arguments and core contents of the paper and will serve to effectively attract readers.</p>	[Y]
15	<p>The 'INTRODUCTION' section clearly describes the relevant background information for the study. Only the most relevant and current (within the past 5 years) literature is cited, with the exception of rare instances of seminal literature citations. All technical terms and/or abbreviations are explained and/or defined, with the full name of abbreviations given upon first appearance in the text and the abbreviation presented in parentheses [<i>i.e.</i>, "...computed tomography (CT)"]. First-person pronouns (<i>e.g.</i>, 'I, 'we') are used appropriately to clearly indicate the work performed</p>	[Y]

	by the author(s). When weaknesses of previous studies are described in the text to highlight the innovations related to the current study, the information is presented carefully.	
16	The 'MATERIALS AND METHODS' section clearly and accurately describes all materials and methods used to obtain the data presented in the article and is adequate for a reader to repeat the study.	[Y]
17	The 'RESULTS' section concisely describes the observational and experimental results. Representative data and data that have scientific significance are emphasized. Data is presented in either the text, a table or figure (<i>i.e.</i> , chart, diagram, graph or image), but is not repeated among each. Information presented in the tables and figures clearly describes the trends, meaning, and inferences. Results described in textual form are accurate, concise and clear.	[Y]
18	Statistical symbols are accurate. Statistical significance is expressed as ^a $P < 0.05$, ^b $P < 0.01$ ($P > 0.05$ usually does not need to be denoted). If there are other series of P values, ^c $P < 0.05$ and ^d $P < 0.01$ are used, and a third series of P values is expressed as ^e $P < 0.05$ and ^f $P < 0.01$. Statistical data is expressed as mean \pm SD or mean \pm SE.	[Y]

19	The 'DISCUSSION' section (1) describes the main purpose and hypothesis of the study; (2) summarizes the most important results; (3) illustrates and explains the results (but does not simply repeat the data) and draws conclusions or inferences based on the results; (4) points out the limitations of the study and their impact on the results, as well as proposes further advice on future research topic(s) or direction(s); and (5) describes the theoretical significance and practical value of the findings.	[Y]
20	The 'ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS' section expresses gratitude to any individuals or organizations for technical support (<i>i.e.</i> , providing instrumentation, equipment or experimental materials, and/or assistance in experimental work), non-technical services (<i>i.e.</i> , useful inspiration, suggestions, guidance, or review), and/or any other auxiliary work.	[N]
21	The 'ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS' section provides comments for original articles in accordance with the specified format.	[Y]
22	The 'REFERENCES' section lists the references in the Vancouver style. This style uses Arabic numeral in-text citations based on the order of the first appearance of a source in the text. For citations where the author's name is indicated in the text, a superscript number should be placed following the name (<i>i.e.</i> , "Pang <i>et al</i> ¹ "). For citations where no author is indicated, a superscript number should be placed at the end of the sentence. Respective examples are: "Ma ¹ reported", "Pan <i>et al</i> ^[2-5] indicated" ; "PCR has a high sensitivity ^[6,9] ." No superscript numbers are used when the reference number is described in the text; for example, "The experimental method used has been described in reference [8]." The style of reference citations in tables is the same as that in the text (<i>e.g.</i> , Pan <i>et al</i> ^[2-5] , please see reference [8]).	[Y]

23	Journal references have been verified to ensure that there are no duplicate references and that the PMID numbers are correct. For references not yet included in PubMed: the name of Chinese journals is spelled out using Chinese Pinyin, with the first letter of each word capitalized (<i>e.g.</i> , <i>Shijie Huaren Xiaohua Zazhi</i>); the name of journals in other languages are listed according to indexing information retrieved from Google. Book references are presented with all the information relevant to the electronic version.	[Y]
24	The number of cited references is appropriate for the article type, as follows: <u>Commentary</u> : no less than 50; <u>Review</u> : no less than 100; <u>Article</u> : no less than 30/26; <u>Case Report and Letter to the Editor</u> : no less than 1.	[Y]
25	The ethics-related statements are provided in accordance with the manuscript type (<i>e.g.</i> , Manuscript No.-Institutional review board statement, Manuscript No.-Animal care and use statement, <i>etc.</i>).	[Y]
26	The names of the peer reviewers and the scientific editor are present at the end of the paper (<i>e.g.</i> , P-Reviewer: Hugot D S-Editor: Wang JL).	[Y]
27	The order and numerical labeling of tables and figures is consistent with their appearance and presentation in the text. Symbols in tables (<i>e.g.</i> , +, -, ×, ÷, *) correctly correspond to the definitions in the footnotes. Only one legend is provided for each multi-panel figure consisting of color graphs, black and white graphs, or line graphs that depicts data of the same theme. For example: Figure 1 Pathological changes in atrophic gastritis tissue before and after treatment. A: ...; B: ...; C: ...; D: ...; E: ...; F:	[Y]
28	Split pictures include flow charts, line graphs, histograms, and graphs including text. Unsplit pictures include meta-analysis	[Y]

	diagrams, PCR amplification curves, and survival curves.	
29	The author(s) highlighted the changes made to the manuscript according to the peer-reviewers' comments.	[Y]
30	The responses to the peer-reviewers' comments are consistent with the changes made to the manuscript.	[Y]
31	The revised manuscript is provided (file name: Manuscript No.-Review; <i>e.g.</i> , 870- Review). The letter of peer-reviewers' comments is provided (file name: Manuscript No.-Peer-review(s); <i>e.g.</i> , 870-Peer-review(s)). The response letter is provided (file name: Manuscript No.-Answering reviewers; <i>e.g.</i> , 870-Answering reviewers).	[Y]
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37	A <i>CrossCheck</i> investigation (an effective tool for detecting unoriginal content, enabling our editors to preserve the journal's integrity and the authors' copyright) has been performed for the manuscript <i>via</i> the website: http://www.ithenticate.com/ . The results document contains the following information for the manuscript: "Name of journal", "Manuscript No.", "Columns", "Title" and "Author list". The Figure of the <i>CrossCheck</i> results is saved in JPEG format (.jpg) at 1440 × 680 pixel resolution. The PDF of the <i>CrossCheck</i> results has been saved under the file name: manuscript No.- <i>CrossCheck</i> report (<i>e.g.</i> , 870- <i>CrossCheck</i> report). The Google searches have also been performed to further ensure publication of original content.	[Y]
38	The text of the manuscript is typed in Book Antiqua font, 12 pt, with 1.5 line spacing.	[Y]
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