**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**Manuscript NO:** 72905

**Manuscript Type:** RETRACTION NOTE

**Retraction Note: Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against non-structural protein 3 protease of hepatitis C virus genotype 3a by fluorescence resonance energy transfer assay and mass spectrometry**

Khan M. Retraction note

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**Received:** November 2, 2021

**Revised:** January 7, 2022

**Accepted: March 16, 2022**

**Published online:**

**Abstract**

Retraction note: Khan M, Rauf W, Habib F, Rahman M, Iqbal M. Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against non-structural protein 3 protease of hepatitis C virus genotype 3a by fluorescence resonance energy transfer assay and mass spectrometry. *World J Hepatol* 2020; 12(11): 976-992 PMID: 33312423 DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4254/wjh.v12.i11.976>. The online version of the original article can be found at <https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-5182/full/v12/i11/976.htm>

**Key Words:** Non-structural protein 3; Hepatitis C virus; Genotype 3a; Fluorescence resonance energy transfer

Khan M, Rauf W, Habib FE, Rahman M, Iqbal M. Retraction Note: Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against non-structural protein 3 protease of hepatitis C virus genotype 3a by fluorescence resonance energy transfer assay and mass spectrometry. *World J Hepatol* 2022; In press

**Core Tip:** We have decided to retract the above article for further consideration due to some misunderstandings in communication.

**TO THE EDITOR**

In this manuscript, actually our study focus was to develop fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) assay through expression of non-structural protein 3/4a (NS3/4A) protease of HCV genotype 3a, followed by the evaluation of extract and targeted pure natural products. However, we mistakenly used the expression vector that contains co-factor NS4A from genotype 1a. But whole story was built and described on the use of NS4A sequence/expression vector from the genotype 3a. The amino acid sequences of NS4A of the genotype 1a (KKGSVVIVGRIVLSGK) is significantly different from the genotype 3a (KKGCVVIVGHIELGK) that lead to the variation in the activity of NS3/4A protease[1].

We checked NS3/4A activity with co-factors from both genotypes (1a and 3a) and found a clear variation in the proteolytic activity of NS3 protease when fused to its respective co-factor NS4A. As mentioned earlier, in the published manuscript, by mistake we supplemented the full-length NS3 and NS4A-fused NS3 protease with a peptide derived from the NS4A of a genotype 1a virus that led to wrong interpretation and conclusion. Now we found that NS4A of a genotype 3a virus is really compatible with NS3 protease (3a) and exhibited much higher protease activity than the NS4A of a genotype 1a virus. Subsequently, this led to difference in the inhibitory concentration values of inhibitors (extracts and natural products) screened through the FRET assay. This significant variation in the activity assay has altered the downstream inhibitory activities of extracts and natural products. Regrettably, this situation has forced us to retract our paper[2] to conduct more experimentation and make the major correction in data, before we can consider its rewriting and publication.

**REFERENCES**

1 **Beyer BM**, Zhang R, Hong Z, Madison V, Malcolm BA. Effect of naturally occurring active site mutations on hepatitis C virus NS3 protease specificity. *Proteins* 2001; **43**: 82-88 [PMID:11276078]

2 **Khan M**, Rauf W, Habib F, Rahman M, Iqbal M. Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against non-structural protein 3 protease of hepatitis C virus genotype 3a by fluorescence resonance energy transfer assay and mass spectrometry. *World J Hepatol* 2020; **12**: 976-992 [PMID: 33312423 DOI: 10.4254/wjh.v12.i11.976]

**Footnotes**

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited article; Externally peer reviewed.

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Corresponding Author's Membership in Professional Societies:** The American Chemical Society, 30176895.

**Peer-review started:** November 2, 2021

**First decision:** December 27, 2021

**Article in press:**

**Specialty type:** Chemistry, medicinal

**Country/Territory of origin:** Pakistan

**Peer-review report’s scientific quality classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): B

Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**P-Reviewer:** Chen X, China; Sira AM, Egypt **S-Editor:** Xing YX **L-Editor:** A **P-Editor:** Xing YX