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**Dear Editor-in-Chief,**  
Lian-Sheng Ma, President and Company Editor-in-Chief  
**Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**

**WJGO**  
*Invited editorial (APC exemption)*  
**ID: 00054975**

Please find enclosed our revised paper (MS No 30551) submitted to the **WJGO** for consideration as agreed from previous invitation and email communication.

We have provided an abstract as well as ‘core tips’, but would refrain from making an ‘audio tip’ to this article, so please excuse us from this task.

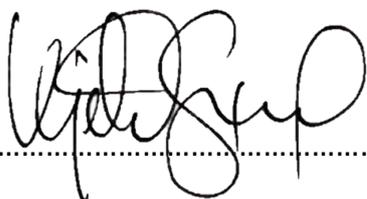
We hereby declare that the authors have contributed to:

- (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data,
- (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content,
- (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

There are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

We shall be happy to await the editor’s further evaluation and decision.

Sincerely yours,



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Kjetil Søreide MD, PhD  
Professor of Surgery  
Stavanger 25 november 2016

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Response to referees' comments:

Referee 1:

No comments.

*RE: We thank the referee for the very kind evaluation.*

Referee 2:

The editorial by Veen and Soreide provides a nice and comprehensive overview of the current state of the art on the criteria for the clinical decision process in the surgical treatment of colorectal cancer liver metastases. I would suggest to include a description of the potential application in this field of the study of circulating tumor DNA. This biomarker could represent a useful prognostic/predictive marker representing the tumor genetic profile both from a quantitative and a qualitative point of view. In addition it could account for the intra-tumor and primary tumor-metastases genetic heterogeneity. Minor comments: 1. Abbreviation should be defined at first citation (i.e. RFS) 2. Revise spelling in table 1 title

*RE: We thank the referee for the very kind evaluation. We have added some details and info on circulating cell-free DNA as well to the paragraph on Liquid biopsies. A more indepth description would be beyond the scope of the article and thus we have not provided a very lengthy discussion to this theme.*

Referee 3:

Well-written editorial on a subject of great interest for further future studies.  
Publication recommended.

*RE: We thank the referee for the very kind evaluation.*