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## **Reply Letter**

To the Editorial Board of WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY,

We appreciate your constructive advice on our previously submitted manuscript " Serotonin Type 3 Receptor Subunit Gene Polymorphisms Associated with Psychosomatic Symptoms in Irritable Bowel Syndrome: a Multicenter Retrospective Study" (Manuscript NO. 69393). We are very pleased to have been given the opportunity to revise our contribution. We would like to thank the reviewers for their invested time and their very helpful and positive comments, evaluations, and suggestions.

We shortened the introduction part and modified the tables according to your comments and also performed further language polishing with a new language certificate.

It should be clarified that, as a matter of fact our team has generated most of the data in the HTR3 genetics field and refer to our HTR3 database paper *Celli et al., 2017*. Therefore, the self-citations are not avoidable.

Yours sincerely,

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