

Dear Editor,

Manuscript NO: 82274, Basic Study

Title: " Calcitriol attenuates liver fibrosis through HCV nonstructural protein 3-transactivated protein 1-mediated TGF β 1/Smad3 and NF- κ B signaling pathways "

Thank you very much for your hard work and your recognition and guidance of our manuscript. As for the language problem of our article, we have done a thorough and careful examination and revision, and we have invited expert help from the American Journal Experts to help us to improve the language of our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors strictly. In particular, We have modified the images, discussion and references of the article according to the requirements, the following points have been addressed in detail according to the reviewer's request. We have highlighted all the amends in the revised manuscript. Should you have any questions, please contact us without hesitating at the following address, phone and e-mail:

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Response to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The results of this research are very interesting. The discussion is good, however, some minor editing is required before final acceptance. Thank you.

Answer: Thank you very much for your recognition and guidance of our manuscript. As for the language problems, we have done a thorough and careful examination and revision. In addition, we have invited expert help from the **American Journal Experts** to help us to improve the language of our manuscript. Many edits were made to further improve the flow and readability of the paper. Please accept our sincerest thanks for all your hard work, we have carried out a comprehensive and complete check on the full manuscript, and we carefully revised the grammar, phrasing, and punctuation of the whole article.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: The ORF region of the HCV genome consists of a core protein region, envelope protein region and nonstructural protein region. HCV NS3 plays an important role in HCV RNA protein maturation and replication. DR was highly expressed in HSCs and Kupffer cells but weakly expressed in hepatic cells. Moreover, VDR is fully functional in HSCs and Kupffer cells. The mechanism and mutual regulation between NS3TP1 and calcitriol in liver fibrosis have not been elucidated. In this study, the authors elucidated the mechanism of NS3TP1 in liver fibrosis and the regulatory effects of calcitriol on NS3TP1. This research is overall well designed, and the research is well performed. The findings in this research are very interesting, and well discussed. The Reviewer recommends to accept this research after a minor editing.

(1) The manuscript requires a minor editing. Some minor language polishing should be corrected. (2) The figures should be updated with high quality images. (3) How about the limit of this study? Please make a short discussion about it. (4) The references should be edited and updated.

Answer: Thank you very much for your comprehensive, careful and timely review of our manuscript. First, we have done a thorough and careful examination and revision, and we have invited expert help from the **American Journal Experts** to help us to improve the language of our manuscript. Second, In accordance with the instructions for the development of bitmaps, vector graphics, and tables in the revised manuscripts, we have already examined and updated images with high quality as shown in the revised manuscript. Third, the limitations of the study just as “Regarding the limitations of this study, animal experiments were not completed on NS3TP1-KO mice. In our research, we discovered that NS3TP1-KO mice could not give birth normally. Combined with the results of GeneCards database retrieval, we found that the NS3TP1 content in the reproductive system is quite rich. We therefore speculated that knocking down NS3TP1 would also have an impact on reproductive functions. To learn more about how the protein contributes to liver fibrosis, we will concentrate on NS3TP1 knockouts that target the liver”, which have also been shown in the manuscript. Last but not least, we strictly followed the Reference Citation Analysis and format for references guidelines while editing and updating the references.

Reviewer #3:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Dear authors, the discussion section needs to be well, concisely and coherently organized and presented. Additionally, you should mention the study limitations.

Answer: We appreciate you taking the time to read and comment on our article, as well as the advice and guidance given. Initially, As for the language problems, we have done a thorough and careful examination and revision. In addition, we have invited expert

help from the **American Journal Experts** to help us to improve the language of our manuscript. Many edits were made to further improve the flow and readability of the paper. Secondly, we examined the whole paper in detail, especially the discussion part. We carefully revised the language organization, diction, grammar and coherence of the article, and further explained and elaborated the limitations of the study, as shown in the manuscript.