

Rio de Janeiro, 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2014

Dear Editor Yue-Li Tian,

Please find enclosed the reviewed manuscript file **12804** in Word format.

Title: Obesity and weight loss could alter the properties of Adipose stem cells?

Authors: Leandra S. Baptista, Karina R. Silva and Radovan Borjevic.

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We read with really interest your letter regarding the possibility of resubmitting our manuscript for consideration of publication in World Journal of Stem Cells. We carefully read the reviewers' comments to our first submission and we attempted to address all the reviewer's concerns.

Enclosed below please find the responses to the reviewer's concerns in separate sheets. All changes introduced in the text of this revised version of the manuscript are highlighted in yellow. Since we have incorporated the reviewers' recommendations, we hope that the editors and referees will now find the revised version acceptable for publication in World Journal of Stem Cells.

We confirm that the content of the manuscript is original and it has not been published or accepted for publication, either in whole or in part, in any form. No part of the manuscript is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Looking forward to a favorable final review process,

We thank you in advance for your time and effort.

On behalf of all co-authors,



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Reviewed by 02348457

More data and details should be provided to support that hypothesis that adipose stem cells after bariatric surgery may be not appropriate for regenerative medicine. The focus of the article should be placed on the main ideal indicated from the title.

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REPLY: We added references through the text about subcutaneous adipose tissue cells after massive weight loss. In fact, there are a few articles concerning about adipose tissue cells after bariatric surgery, and only two (including our own) regarding adipose stem cells. We also modified the title for - *Obesity and weight loss could alter the properties of Adipose stem cells?* - since we also discuss about adipose stem cells in obese subcutaneous adipose tissue. We believe that the current title is more appropriate to article content.

Reviewed by 02445772

Baptista et al. Performed a review on ASC. The title of their work is somekind misleading because they do not solely discuss ASC in the context of bariatric surgery. Far more they discuss different topics in unsorted order. A "red line" is missing throughout the work and it seems that the subheadings are in a random order more than well structured. Moreover it seems that the authors want to highlight their own work on the topic of ASC with a high number of self-citations. For a critical collective review it would be suitable to really focus on one topic within the field of ASC and include all relevant literature (from peer-reviewed, high impact ranked journals). Yet, important references are missing. I suggest performing some corrections in the work with critical discussion of newly added literature. Especially the inclusion of own, but unpublished data should be avoided (see pages 12 and 13, lines 271 and 303). Attention should be given to statements such as ongoing phase III studies would be indicators for "safe and successful" treatment options as long as it is not proven (see page 8, line 171). Really new information is missing; this work in its current version does not add something new to literature. However, I think a well performed collective review on ASC would be worth for publication.

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REPLY: We added references through the text about subcutaneous adipose tissue cells in obese, after massive weight loss and also in different diseases with an inflammatory condition. In fact, there are a few articles concerning about adipose tissue cells after bariatric surgery, and only two (including our own) regarding adipose stem cells. We also modified the title for - *Obesity and weight loss could alter the properties of Adipose stem cells?* We believe that the current title is more appropriate to article

content. The subheadings were modified and represent a logical order of thought: 1. Obese subcutaneous adipose tissue; 2. Healthy and non-healthy adipose stem cells; 3. Adipose stem cells after massive weight loss: implications for regenerative medicine. We maintained only one citation of our group about adipose stem cells after bariatric surgery. We avoided unpublished data and also removed unnecessary information which escaped from theme.

Reviewed by 02445708

This is timely review, on interesting topic relating to adipose tissue stem cells. The authors conclude that obesity and weight loss due to bariatric surgery could alter the properties of adipose tissue derived stem cells. Consequently, adipose stem cells obtained from obese patients, before or after bariatric surgery may be not appropriate for regenerative medicine. The major problem of this manuscript is that it contains information already presented in many reviews. Only in 2014 more than 30 elegant reviews has been published on this interesting subject. Moreover, there are a couple of minor issue that need attention. 1. The paper needs to be updated with recent literature on the topic. 2. It seems to me that main and short titles do not accurately reflect the content of the review. Please consider (main title): Obesity and weight loss could alter the properties adipose-derived stem cells?

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REPLY: We modified the title as exactly suggested: *Obesity and weight loss could alter the properties of Adipose stem cells?* We believe that the current title is really more appropriate to article content. The subheadings were also modified and represent a logical order of thought: 1. Obese subcutaneous adipose tissue; 2. Healthy and non-healthy adipose stem cells; 3. Adipose stem cells after massive weight loss: implications for regenerative medicine. Besides, we added references through the text about subcutaneous adipose tissue cells in obese, after massive weight loss and also in different diseases with an inflammatory condition. We believe that these articles represent new information on adipose stem cells and inflammatory microenvironment. In fact, there are a few articles concerning about adipose tissue cells after bariatric surgery, and only two (including our own) regarding adipose stem cells.