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October 21, 2014

Dear Editor:

Enclosed you will find an electronic copy of the full-text manuscript in Word format. Please accept our sincerest apologies for the delay in submission.

Title: Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Advances in Diagnosis, Management, and Long Term Outcome

Author: Adam S. Bodzin, Ronald W. Busuttil

We report that new therapies for the hepatitis C virus may help prevent the development of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), however the growing obesity epidemic will continue to foster new cases of HCC. With the aid of advances in imaging, patients may be diagnosed earlier making them candidates for curative resection or transplantation. In addition, with a growing population of patients undergoing surgery after being down-staged with locoregional therapy, we expect an improvement in long-term outcomes for HCC patients.

The content of this manuscript is original and 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.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald W. Busuttil, MD, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Executive Chairman
UCLA Department of Surgery
Chief, Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation
Director, the Dumont-UCLA Liver Transplant and Cancer Centers

December 6, 2014

Dear Editor Board,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format: HCC-review-edits (12-6-14).docx

Title: Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Advances in Diagnosis, Management, and Long Term Outcome

Author: Adam S. Bodzin, MD and Ronald W. Busuttil MD, PhD

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14744

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Fax and Phone number were included on the title page.
2. References were corrected to include PMID and DOI. The formatting was also changed to make all the in-text references superscript and closed within brackets.(first 3 references are highlighted as requested.
3. The conflict of interest statement can be seen on page 2.
4. The reviewer's comments that liver cancer is now the second leading cause of death has been changed on page 4 and highlighted as well as referenced accordingly.
5. The biomarker and non-imaging prognostic factors that were mentioned by reviewer #1 have been expanded on page 9 and highlighted.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Hepatology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald W. Busuttil". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ronald W. Busuttil, MD, PhD

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