

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

February 3, 2015



Dear Editor,

Thank you for your comments on the previous version of our manuscript. Please forward our appreciation to the referees for their comments and constructive criticisms, which we believe have improved the manuscript considerably. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (ESPS Manuscript NO: 15811)

**Title:** Is irritable bowel syndrome a stem-cell disorder

**Author:** Magdy El-Salhy, Jan Gunnar Hatlebakk and Trygve Hausken

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 15811

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

1 Concerning the amount of overlapping text (se the attachment, which was sent as e-mail). Rephrasing was done, when it is possible. Please, if further overlapping occur, check that it is not due to the names, affiliations or address as well as the name of the antibodies, statistical tests, or the manufactures of the apparatus or antibodies used.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

**(I) Reviewer 01432186:**

1. The reviewer is quite right in the papers mentioned as well as most of our published work done in the last 10 years, the endocrine cells in different segments of the gastrointestinal tract in patients with IBS were investigated. The most usual methods we used were immunohistochemistry, computer image analysis and radioimmunoassays. The similarity ends here. The present paper does not aim at mapping the abnormality in the duodenum, but to find the reason for this abnormality. The present paper presents a novel concept i.e. that abnormalities in the activities of the intestinal stem cell is the cause for the endocrine cell abnormalities in IBS. This has not been done before by us or anybody else.

2. The title of the paper is changed as recommended by the reviewer.

3. IBS-M results is added to the abstract page 2, lines 20-21.

**(II) 02531219**

1. The functions of the hormones are described in the introduction as required by the reviewer page 4, lines 9-16 from the bottom.

2. The exact P values were included throughout the manuscript as recommended by the reviewer.

**(III) 00068404**

We thank the reviewer for her/his positive comments.

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

Sincerely yours,

*Magdy El-Salhy*

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