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Science Editor
Editorial Office
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April 5 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2276-review.doc).

Title: Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) gene polymorphisms in inflammatory bowel disease: an association study in New Zealand Caucasians and meta-analysis

Author: James D. Falvey, Robert W. Bentley, Tony R. Merriman, Mark B. Hampton, Murray L. Barclay1, Richard B. Gearry, Rebecca L. Roberts

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2276

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the editor and reviewers as follows:

1. Format has been updated as requested. The author affiliations have been reformatted, and the manuscript now contains a 100 word core tip.
2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of each reviewer

Reviewer 00009783

Incorporate the first three sentences in the results of the abstract into the aims and methods portion
This has now been done

Reviewer 00069827

Requested no changes be made to the manuscript

Reviewer 02445746

Requested no changes be made to the manuscript

Reviewer 00860822

I am confused that they performed their original study in New Zealand patients

Our study has two parts. Part one was to determine the frequency of MIF polymorphisms in New Zealand Caucasians and test for association with inflammatory bowel disease. Our cohort is the largest so far to be genotyped for MIF polymorphisms. The second part of the study was a meta-analysis. This was used to confirm what we observed in our New Zealand population.

Authors gave an IRB approval. For meta-analysis, a kind study just put all other people's reports together and analyzed the overall effect. However, the authors in fact did not clearly present that.

The IRB number provided in the manuscript only refers to the New Zealand patients and controls. It

does not cover other patients and controls included in the meta-analyses. We apologise for any confusion and have clarified this point in the manuscript under the ethics section (page 6).

From the forest plots, I cannot get the basic information how many patients for each study they included
Table 1 now which lists the number of cases and controls of previous association studies on MIF in IBD. This table also indicates studies were included in our meta-analyses.

They said their control group came from a literature (ref. 22). From that, I only found that this paper is a comment on an editorial paper (Arthritis Rheum. 2005 Jul;52(7):1952-5.). How could they choose such a paper?
Reference 22 is the first paper to describe the New Zealand healthy controls which we used for the current study, hence why it was referenced. This reference has now been replaced with a more recent paper which offers a more detailed description of our controls.

Title should be re-described because their analysis merely focused on New Zealand patients, not for all over the world

We have changed the title of manuscript from 'meta-analysis of macrophage migration inhibitory factor in inflammatory bowel disease' to 'Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) gene polymorphisms in inflammatory bowel disease: an association study in New Zealand Caucasians and meta-analysis'. We feel it is important to indicate that the manuscript describes both an association study and a subsequent meta-analysis.

In the abstract, result section, deleted the first two sentences. They are not the results.
The first two sentences have been moved to the aims section of the abstract.

3 References have now been corrected, and PMID and DOIs included for each.

4 In accordance with the suggestions of the editor, sub-headings have now been added to both the results and discussion sections.

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

Yours sincerely,



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