

## **Response to the editor and reviewers**

Thank you very much for the comments and the positive remarks about our manuscript submitted to World Journal of Gastroenterology entitled: "Droplet digital PCR for quantification of ITGA6 in a stool mRNA assay for the detection of colorectal cancers".  
No: 32073.

### **Answering the editor's comments:**

The comments made by the editor in the edited version of the manuscript have been addressed and are integrated into the revised documents. As instructed, the text has been provided in .doc and a ppt file containing editable figures has been also uploaded as item 1b 32073.

### **Answering the reviewers:**

#### **Reviewer 1**

**Comment #1:** Please present the original data in the form of tables as well.

**Answer:** Since this would represent 4 large tables, it is not clear whether these tables should be embedded in the paper. As instructed, we have added a statement on the title page (p. 2) under "Data sharing statement" that original data will be available from the corresponding author once the manuscript has been published.

**Comment #2:** Also, please elaborate the basics and role of ITGA6 and ITGA6A in colorectal cancer rather than straight jumping into the analytical methods as reader may not appreciate your work.

**Answer:** Thank you for the comment. We have provided some details about ITGA6/ITGA6A in the last paragraph of the introduction (p.7).

#### **Reviewer 2**

**Comment #1:** The authors state that the samples were used in a previous study. Could they provide evidence that the ethical protocol of the previous study covered the present analyses as well (or that it has been amended)?

**Answer:** Yes, the protocol covered it. For more clarity, the statement on the title page under "Institutional review board statement" (p. 2) was amended to specify that "The use of human material for this study was approved by (...).

**Comment #2:** Please add more details on the statistical analysis (Kruskal-Wallis). Did the authors perform a post-hoc test to compare single samples?

**Answer:** Yes. As specified in the Methods section under "Data presentation and statistical analysis", the Kruskal-Wallis test was followed by Dunn's multiple comparison tests. For more clarity, the second part of the statement was included in the legends of Figure 1 and 2.

Thank you,

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