

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (ESPS Manuscript No: 3375-edited.doc).

**Title:** Prediction of Crohn's Disease Aggression through NOD2/CARD15 gene sequencing in an Australian cohort

**Authors:** Maneesha Bhullar, Finlay Macrae, Gregor Brown, Margie Smith , Ken Sharpe

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 3375

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

1. The format provided by the journal specifications has been followed and revised. The changes made have been highlighted for the reviewer.
2. The suggestions provided by the reviewers have been considered and addressed in the manuscript. Firstly, our paper recognizes the small sample size and have been sincere and honest in the interpretation of the data. Secondly, comments were made regarding references to be updated and further new literature has been added to the material. Thirdly, we addressed the comments regarding the ethnic data of the cohort. This cohort consists of an Australian population, who were not of a single race. Many of the patients were of mixed heritage and it would be an exhaustive list of races to provide and of limited value. This represents quite classically the demographics that medical professions deals with in most Australian tertiary centres.
3. References and typesetting were corrected, and PMID numbers were provided for the journal articles.

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

Yours sincerely,

Maneesha Bhullar  
Department of Gastroenterology  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
Grattan St, Parkville  
VIC Australia 3050  
Maneesha.Bhullar@mh.org.au