Dear Dr. Jaster,

OK! Thank you for your kind reply. Please submit your revised manuscript via system.

Best regards,

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**Date:** 2017-11-09 00:11

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**Subject:** [\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*] AW: World Journal of Gastroenterology Manuscript Revision for Manuscript NO: 36512 – Further revision needed

Dear Editors,

In addition to my previous mail (see below) I would like to specify the points where we ask for your support:

1.    **Language certificate:** Several authors of the paper have a long standing experience in publishing articles in the English language, with together more than 100 PubMed-listed articles. The corresponding author has spent several years in the USA, and published papers since 1993 (including 6 papers in the WJG). A language certificate has never been requested before. What specifically is the problem now? The certificate is expensive and would take several weeks, since an ok from our financial department would be required.

Again, we would like to ask you for a waiver of the language certificate.

2.    **Institutional review board and institutional animal care and use committee statements:** Human subjects were not involved. We used mice, but they were sacrificed for cell isolation only. Since no experiments with living mice were performed, this is not an animal experiment according to the German law. Therefore, there is no possibility and no need for an evaluation by a review board or an institutional animal care and use committee, and we will not obtain the statements you are asking for. Also, there are no protocol numbers. (Of course, there are nevertheless many regulations that had to be considered, including an annual report to the local authorities, a handling of mice by qualified persons only and humane care for the mice according to the German legislation on protection of animals.)

Our suggestions are as follows:

**Institutional review board statement:** Not applicable. Human subjects were not involved. Mice were sacrificed for cell isolation only, but not subjected to animal experiments.

**Institutional animal care and use committee statement:** Not applicable, since no studies with live mice were performed.

It would also be ok to completely delete one or both statements, if possible. Otherwise, we ask for your suggestion how to handle these points.

3.    **Supportive Fondation** (“Supported by FORUN program of the Rostock University Medical Center”): The edited manuscript contains the following editorial comment: “A copy of the full approved grant application form(s), consisting of the information section and body section, should be provided to the BPG in PDF format.“ This is very unusual and also problematic. The experiments of the paper are only a minor part of the grant.  All material is in German. More importantly, the grant application contains unpublished experimental plannings and ideas (unrelated to this paper) that are confidential at this stage.

We are not aware of any previous example published in the WJG or in any other journal. We therefore ask for a waiver of the copy, or for suggestions how to proceed.

Please find attached our corrections of the revised manuscript, which we would submit through the online system as soon as the open questions are addressed.

I am looking forward to your reply or the possibility for a phone call (see below).

Sincerely yours,

Robert Jaster

(corresponding author)