

Dear Editors of World Journal of Hepatology,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript entitled, "Metabolic Syndrome Does Not Affect Sustained Virologic Response of Direct-Acting Antivirals while Hepatitis C Clearance Improves Hemoglobin A1c." (Manuscript ID: 39254). Please find below our responses to the reviewers' comments.

Reviewer #1: In this retrospective study, a total of 1068 patients were treated with DAA were enrolled, successful treatment with DAA was associated with a significant reduction in HbA1c in HCV patients with T2DM, suggesting that DAA may have a role in improving insulin sensitivity. Furthermore, unlike prior studies during the period of pegylated-interferon, metabolic syndrome does not negatively affect SVR12 rates for DAA. These results may help elucidate the relationship between HCV, insulin sensitivity, and longer-term DM outcomes such as cardiovascular events.

Response: Thank you for the kind comments. We agree that these results will help elucidate the relationship between HCV and DM.

Reviewer #2: This study is interesting and has clinical significance. I recommend it to be published. 2. From the paper, we can see that several DAA drugs have been used in the patients, I suggest that this should be mentioned in the Abstract.

Response: Thank you for the kind comments. We have made small edit in the abstract to highlight the fact that several DAA were analyzed in this study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tien Dong', is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Tien Dong, MD

10945 Le Conte Ave

PVUB 2114 MC694907

Los Angeles, CA, 90095

Email: tsdong@mednet.ucla.edu