

Dear Editor,

This is a response letter accompanying the resubmission of our manuscript “IL-12/IL-23 pathway: biological basis and therapeutic effect in patients with Crohn's Disease”. We are very happy to resubmit the revised manuscript and we would like to thank you and the Reviewers for reading and making valuable comments on it. We provide point by point the answers to the reviewers' comments. All changes are highlighted in the revised manuscript.

REVIEWER 1

Comment 1

The authors reviewed the available data regarding the therapeutic effect of the IL-12/IL-23 inhibitors and especially of ustekinumab. The present study was well organized and well investigated, and will give us an important information especially in the field of clinical gastroenterology.

Answer 1

We thank the reviewer for the reading of our manuscript.

REVIEWER 2

Comment 1

The excellent Editorial gives a very good focus of the biological basis in therapeutic

implications of IL-12/IL-23 Pathway in Crohn's disease. Comments 1. IL-23 expression by monocytes is addressed. It could be of interest to dissect the different types of monocytes/ macrophages and their IL-23 profiles.

Answer 1

We have elaborated on the expression profiles of IL-12 and IL-23 (page 7, line 13 and page 8, line 2). Moreover, we have added the differential IL-23 expression profile in the different types of macrophages (M1 and M2 phenotypes) as suggested (page 8, line 4).

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our revised manuscript. We would be glad to respond to any further questions and comments that you may have.

Yours sincerely

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