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October 9, 2013

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 2013 that contained the review of our Topic Highlight.

Title: HCV Control among Persons who Inject Drugs Requires Overcoming Barriers to Care

Authors: M. Zeremski, J.E. Zibbell, A. D. Martinez, S. Kritz, B.D. Smith and A.H. Talal

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4703

We are very grateful that the reviewers generally were very encouraging regarding the importance of the topic and thought that the article should be published. We also thank the reviewers for pointing out some areas in the writing primarily that required additional attention. Below in point-by-point format, we address each of the suggestions that the reviewers had.

Reviewer 1

Comment 1: There are long sentences throughout the text.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer's suggestion on how to improve the readability of the text. Throughout the manuscript, we have shortened the long sentences to which the reviewer refers. In order to improve the readability, we have broken into two some of the long sentences.

Comment 2: Breaking the talk into separate points relevant to patients and health care providers would make it easier to understand.

Response: Based upon the comments of the reviewer, we have rewritten the manuscript to group those points related to patients separately from those referring to providers to improve the comprehension of the work.

Comment 3: The conclusion of the article is again lengthy and not to the point.

Response: We have shortened the conclusions and deleted redundancies to make them more to the point.

Comment 4: This review does not contain any table or figure related to the summary of the work already done.

Response: As requested by the reviewer, we have added a table of the most frequently cited obstacles to engagement of persons who inject drugs into HCV care.

Comment 5: Co-localization of medical services” as a measure mentioned twice in the abstract.

Response: This has been addressed in the revised version of the manuscript.

Reviewer 2:

Comment: However, it would be more interesting if the author provide the realized strategies that could overcome financial obstacles because this is one of the significant barriers in many developing countries or even in the United States.

Response: As requested by the reviewer, we have added a paragraph (page 9) that discusses financial strategies to overcome the obstacles to engagement of this population into HCV care.

Reviewer 3: We thank the reviewer for indicating the opinion that the article should be published.

Please note that we have enclosed one clean copy of the manuscript and one copy with the changes highlighted.

Thank you for consideration of publication of our revised manuscript.

Sincerely,



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