

October 15, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5294-review.doc).

**Title:** Duplicates in Systematic Review: A Critical, but Often Neglected Issue

**Author:** Xingshun Qi, Ming Bai, Zhiping Yang, Weirong Ren

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5294

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1). Answer to comments from Reviewer 1

Thanks for your comments.

First, the sentence mentioned by you has been revised.

Second, we have extended the contents regarding the methods to find duplicates by adding three new figures and some words.

(2). Answer to comments from Reviewer 2

Thanks for your review.

First, we have to acknowledge that this manuscript is a mini-review regarding the prevalence, significance, classification, and methods to find duplicates.

Second, based on our knowledge including our published papers and others, we attempted to make a detailed review as possible as we can.

Third, due to the reliability of data regarding the duplicates in systematic review, only the literature search results from our published papers were primarily reviewed.

Fourth, according to the guide for authors of WJG, the abstract of a review is not necessarily structural.

Fifth, the prevalence of duplicates in systematic review could be more clearly shown in Figure 2.

Finally, the classification of duplicates proposed by our team can be briefly and clearly shown in Figure 3.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*.

Sincerely yours,

Xingshun Qi

Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases

Fourth Military Medical University

No. 27 Changle West Road, Xi' an 710032 China

Tel: +86-29-84771537; Fax: +86-29-82539041

Email: xingshunqi@126.com