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26th February 2020

Professor **Jie Wang**

Science Editor, World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Professor Wang,

Thank you for revising our manuscript NO: 53523 **“Macrophages in metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD)”**

We thank the Editors and reviewers for their constructive comments. We have found the suggestions helpful and have incorporated them in the manuscript, which we now feel is substantially improved.

We would like to note that we have updated the title and text to reflect the changes recommended by a recent consensus suggesting an update of nomenclature of NAFLD to MAFLD published in Gastroenterology (Gastroenterology. 2020 Feb 7. pii: S0016-5085(20)30171-2. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2019.11.312.).

Please find accompanying a point-by-point response to the editor’s comments, as well as the revised manuscript. Thank you for your further review. We hope that the revised manuscript will be acceptable to the Editorial team.

Yours sincerely

Mohammed

Reviewer 1:

The present manuscript from Alharthi et al. is a comprehensive review regarding the role of macrophages in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). The review covers the recent literature regarding macrophage physiology and polarization in the context of this liver disease. The manuscript is well written and the references are updated, the figures summarise properly the concepts described in the main text.

Response: We thank the reviewer for his/her positive comments.

Reviewer 2:

This report provided a very detailed overview on the recent advances in our understanding of the role of macrophages activation and polarization during the entire spectrum of NAFLD including steatosis, inflammation, fibrosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, as well as the potential translational implications and challenges arising from this knowledge. It will provide a good reference for the basic and clinical researchers.

Response: We thank the reviewer for his/her positive comments.

Several expression or grammar errors need to be checked, such as the sentence in the abstract “The plasticity of macrophages in response to different environmental cues and the fact that they can bridge and orchestrate cross talk between cellular players during disease development and progression renders them an ideal target for drug development.”

Response: The senior author is a English native speaker. Having said that, we have checked these sentences as suggested.

Reviewer 3:

Interactions with other defence systems should be even briefly commented.

Response: In agreement, we have added discussion to other systems.