

October 22, 2013

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5451-review.doc).

**Title:** Impaired balance of Th17/Treg cells in CCl<sub>4</sub>-induced liver fibrosis in mice.

**Author:** Xiao-Fei Sun, Lei Gu, Wen-Sheng Deng, Qing Xu.

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5451

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

**Reviewer No. 00053111**

- 1) We stained the liver paraffin blocks with hematoxylin/eosin (H&E) again, and Figure 1 was replaced by new images. In addition, "liver fibrosis score" was added as shown in Table 1.
- 2) We are very sorry about the common misconception. Actually, we did set a control group and detected the frequencies of Th17 and Treg cells in control group, and we have added these data to the manuscript.
- 3) Figure 3A and B are from one representative mouse of each group, we gave an explanation in the manuscript and added the data about the number of mice in each group.
- 4) Figure 5A was renewed.

**Reviewer No. 00504648**

Olive oil was used because many studies had confirmed that it was not harmful to mouse liver, and we have therefore always used olive oil as controls.

**Reviewer No. 02444760**

**Major comments:** We made it clear whether the increase in Th17 cells, and also the decrease in Treg cells, leads to the up-regulation of IL-6 and TGF- $\beta$ . We explained the origination of hepatic  $\alpha$ -SMA. We also elucidated the stimulatory effect of inflammatory cytokines on  $\alpha$ -SMA expression by adding new references.

**Minor comments:**

- 1) Figure 1 was renewed. Panel B, F in legend of Figure 5 and magnification of each figure were added respectively. Some figures of Western blot were added and modified for better presentation.
- 2) The manuscript was edited by a native English speaking editor from the Jing-Yun Ma Expert Group for SCI Biomedical Editing and Publishing).
- 3) The results of liver fibrosis scoring were added as shown in Table 1.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Xiao-Fei Sun

Department of General Surgery, Renji Hospital, School of Medicine, Shanghai Jiaotong University, No.  
160, Pujian Road, Shanghai 200127, China

E-mail: [sxf19870825@163.com](mailto:sxf19870825@163.com)