

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 CCl₄-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- β . We explained the origination of hepatic α -SMA. We also elucidated the stimulatory effect of inflammatory cytokines on α -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

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