

**Dear Editor,**

Thank you and the reviewers for the careful evaluation of our manuscript “Role of nutritional status and nutritional support in the outcome of HBV-associated acute-on-chronic liver failure”. We are very grateful for your kind comments and suggestions, which were valuable in improving the quality of our manuscript. We have considered them carefully and addressed them in the revised manuscript. All the changes made in the revised manuscript are highlighted in red and explained in an itemized, point-by-point response to the Reviewers comments and suggestions (see enclosed).

We believe it is better than the original manuscript and hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Corresponding author: Professor Hai Li,

*Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*

*Tianjin Xiqing Hospital, No.403 Xiqing Road, Xiqing District, Tianjin, China.*

E-mail: haili\_tj@sina.com

## Reviewer Comments and Response

**Reviewer:** Thank you for the invitation to review the manuscript by Chang Y. and colleagues. Nutritional assessment and subsequent interventions are an important and integral part of management and care in any chronic disease. This manuscript focuses on the nutritional risk assessment in hepatitis B patients, investigating different surrogate markers such as D-lactate, cytokines (endotoxin, TNFa, IL10, and IL1), skeletal muscle and fat content in addition to gastrointestinal biomarkers in different hepatitis B patients cohorts (acute-on-chronic HBV, compensated HVB) in the context of (different) nutritional interventions. This is an interesting and well-written manuscript however, the authors tend to overcomplicate with the presentation of numerous results, making it difficult for the reader to follow the main idea. I would suggest to focus on the most important results and try to modify the Methods and Results. However, the final message is clearly showing that early initiated nutritional support in HBV-ACLF patients is associated with better short term prognosis.

**\*\*\*Response:** Thank you very much for your careful review and constructive suggestions. We definitely agree with the reviewer and restructure the Methods and Results. We decided to divide the enrolled parameters into nutritional status assessment, biomarkers of the gastrointestinal barrier, and biomarkers of inflammation. We believe it easier to follow the main idea than the original manuscript. In this study, we comprehensively assessed the nutritional status and nutritional risk of patients with HBV-ACLF and assessed the gastrointestinal barrier function in those patients.

## Editorial Comments and Response

The authors need to provide the CONSORT 2010 form.

**\*\*\*Response:** Thank you for this suggestion. We have added the CONSORT 2010 form on Page 23.

I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

**\*\*\*Response:** We provide the grant application forms.

I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

**\*\*\*Response:** We provide the original figures in PowerPoint.

I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

**\*\*\*Response:** We apologize for this mistake. Changed has been made in the revised version.

the author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author's name, with no spaces.

**\*\*\*Response:** We carefully checked the reference numbers in the manuscript. Correction has been made in the revised version. (Page 13, Ref 23; Page 15, Ref 32)