



**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND RESEARCH
LABORATORY OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
NATIONAL EXPERTISE CENTER OF GREECE IN
AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES
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Larissa, May 19, 2020

Editors, *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Dear Professors and Editors,

Thank you very much indeed for your e-mail message dated May 16, 2020 concerning our original manuscript by N.K. Gatselis et al entitled “**GP73: A potential new prognostic biomarker in patients with chronic liver diseases**” which has now been changed according to the reviewer’s recommendation as “**GP73: A biomarker for assessing cirrhosis and prognosis of liver disease patients**”, your manuscript ID No: 56294 that is kindly been conditionally accepted after minor revision for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

According to the instructions to authors I understand that in case of final acceptance the publication fee will be discounted by 25% as the first author is under the age of 45 years (DOB: 18-12-1975), while I have acted as Editorial Board Member in the past for the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, *World Journal of Hepatology* and *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology* and also Peer-Reviewer, for these journals and the *World Journal of Clinical Cases*. So, I realize that in case of final acceptance the publication fee will be **1995,00 \$ plus VAT**.

Today we submit our revised manuscript with all changes precisely indicated in the text. Also, I have uploaded an unmarked clean version of the revised manuscript as supplementary material (I did not find how I can upload this file efficiently other than as supplementary material).

We are very grateful to you and the assessor for the helpful and thoughtful recommendations and for your willingness to consider a revised manuscript. We believe that we addressed most of them satisfactorily. All of us feel that our paper has now been significantly improved.

Our point-by-point responses, to the Editors’ and reviewer’s comments/suggestions, are as follows (with respect to the marked revised version of the manuscript):

Editorial Office’s comments

1. Special requirements for tables: Tables must be presented in the order that they appear in the main text of the manuscript (numbered as 1, 2, 3, etc.). Please verify that the tables are referred to in the text by their respective Roman numerals and that the numbering order is correct, and format the tables. Please verify that there are no missing or multiple spaces in the text and tables, e.g. before or after parentheses, between words, or before or after symbols like +, ×, ±, <, >, ≥, and ≤. Please verify that the special words or letters in the text and tables are

correct, e.g. *P* (uppercase), *n* (lowercase), *via*, *vs* (lowercase, no punctuation), *in vivo*, *in vitro*, and *et al* (no punctuation) are italicized.

Reply: Tables have now been changed accordingly.

2. *Special requirements for references:* Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout. The author should provide the first page of the paper without PMID and DOI numbers. NOTE: The PMID is required, and NOT the PMCID; the PMID number can be found at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. (Please begin with PMID:) The DOI number can be found at <http://www.crossref.org/SimpleTextQuery/>. (Please begin with DOI: 10.**).

Reply: From the new reference list, references no. 24, 25 and 45 have no DOI. As you know not all manuscripts have a DOI number. The rest references are OK.

Reviewer #1:

1. The manuscript is clear and thorough, with a large sample size a major strength. The title is a bit misleading. As the authors themselves make clear, GP73 has been evaluated repeatedly as a potential biomarker for liver disease, and thus use of the word "new" may not be appropriate. The use as a potential prognostic marker is more innovative, but does not seem to represent the overall conclusions well.

Reply: We would like to thank the reviewer for her/his kind words and the positive evaluation of our manuscript. The reviewer has right that the title is a little bit misleading but this was done because of the limit of 12 words in the title of the paper according to the instructions for authors. By the way, in order to satisfy the reviewer, we have now changed the title in an attempt to be more representative with the findings and conclusions of the study (please see the new suggested title).

2. *One small point: the following statement from the discussion needs a citation. "Recent knock-down genetic studies in HepG2.2.15 cell lines provide further support as they proved that GP73 inhibition is related to a reduction of the inside surface area of the Golgi complex."*

Reply: We have followed your recommendation and two related references have now been added (please see new ref. no 25 and 26).

Science Editor

1. *The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG.*

Reply: I the undersigned and corresponding author can assure you that I have published many papers in the BPG (please see the following: *World J Gastroenterol* 11:482-487, 2005; *World J Gastroenterol* 12:336-339, 2006; *World J Gastroenterol* 16:225-31, 2010; *World J Gastroenterol* 18:4721-4728, 2012; *World J Hepatol* 5:387-392, 2013; *World J Hepatol* 5:577-583, 2013; *World J Gastroenterol* 20:2839-2853, 2014; *World J Gastroenterol* 21: 60-83, 2015; *World J Hepatol* 7:1875-1883, 2015; *World J Clin Cases* 7:3394-406, 2019). I do not know why and for which reason such a wrong statement has been done.

2. *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).*

Reply: We'd like to make clear the following issues. Inova Diagnostics Inc. provided the ELISA kits for the support of this study directly to Gary L. Norman, Zakera Shums and Roger Albesa, who are employees of Inova Diagnostics Inc. This was an internal affair of the company for logistics reasons so, there was not any specific grant application by our side to Inova Diagnostics Inc. or any specific approval document from the agency. In other words, this notion of the science editor is not applicable in our case and this was the reason why we did not provide an approved grant application in our first submission.

3. *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.*

Reply: Figures have now been changed according to your suggestions (please see new figures and supplementary figures).

4. *I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section. Please write the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text.*

Reply: We have followed your suggestion and the missing section has now been added at the end of the main text.

This work has not been published nor is under consideration for publication elsewhere. A brief abstract has only been presented during the proceedings of 16th Greek National Hepatology Congress in Athens, May 2018 organized by the Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver. I clearly state that all authors have contributed significantly and agreed with the content of the manuscript giving explicit consent to submit and they obtained consent from the responsible authorities at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out, before the work is submitted.

Once again, I would like to thank you and the referee for your helpful suggestions and for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised manuscript. I do hope now that our revised manuscript will be found finally suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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