



UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY
MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AND
RESEARCH LAB OF INTERNAL MEDICINE



DIRECTOR: Professor George N. Dalekos
e-mail: dalekos@med.uth.gr

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your e-mail message dated October 20, 2013 concerning our invited review article by Gatselis et al, your Ref. ESPS Ms No: 5647, entitled "**Individualization of chronic hepatitis C treatment according to the host characteristics**" that is kindly accepted for publication after minor revisions in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Today we submit our revised manuscript in Word format (**file name: 5647-review_revised.doc**) following your instructions with all changes precisely indicated in the text; deletions are also obvious.

We also upload the "**Copyright Assignment**", the current file "**Answering Reviewers**", and images files in ppt format ("**figure1.ppt**", "**figure2.ppt**" and "**figure3.ppt**").

This work has not been published nor is under consideration elsewhere and I clearly state that all co-authors have seen and agreed with the contents of the manuscript. In addition, all authors have substantially contributed to this work and they have not any financial, consultant or institutional conflict of interest.

We are very grateful to you and the assessors for the helpful and thoughtful recommendations. We believe that we addressed all of them satisfactorily. All of us feel that our paper has now been significantly improved.

Title: Individualization of chronic hepatitis C treatment according to the host characteristics

Author: Nikolaos K Gatselis, Kalliopi Zachou, Asterios Saitis, Maria Samara, George N Dalekos

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5647

Editor comments:

- Format has been updated as "Topic Highlight". Corrections and queries made by the editor and typesetting were accepted and addressed accordingly (please see new edited article).
- "Comment 2: Please confirm the correctness of this information."

Reply: Thanks a lot for your comment. We confirm that this information is correct. Actually, Tsubota et al managed to construct a prognostic model for predicting a **significant hemoglobin decline** (it was defined as a decline in Hb concentration of >3.0 g/GL at week 4 of treatment) incorporating these prognostic factors, although they failed to create an additional prognostic model for predicting

significant anemia (it was defined as Hb <10.0 g/dL at wk4 of treatment) because no patients with rs1127354 minor genotype CA/AA suffered from significant anemia.

Reviewer #1 and Reviewer #2:

A native speaker of English has done some minor reconstructions of English language in the whole new text.

Once again, I would like to thank you and the referees for your helpful suggestions and for giving us the opportunity to submit our revised manuscript in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Dalekos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

George N. Dalekos, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine

Head, Department of Medicine and Research Laboratory of Internal Medicine

School of Medicine, University of Thessaly

Larissa, Greece