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Dated: 02-09-2020

The Editor,
World Journal of Gastroenterology,

Subject: **Response to Reviewers and Science Editor' Comments for the manuscript ESPS Manuscript ID 58556, titled, Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against NS3 protease of HCV-G3a by FRET assay and Mass Spectrometry.**

We have received the comments from one reviewer who recommended to publish this article without any changes. Moreover, we have also received the detailed comments from the Science Editor. We are really thankful to the learned reviewer and Science Editor for their valuable comments, suggestions and conditional acceptance of our manuscript. The manuscript has been modified to address these queries and suggestions, which are illustrated below:

REVIEWER – 1 Comments:

The manuscript entitled Screening and identification of bioactive compounds from citrus against NS3 protease of HCV-G3a by FRET assay and Mass Spectrometry describes the screening of active metabolites in citrus fruits extracts against HCV-Genotype3a NS3 protease. This study is interesting due to the fact that natural compounds may serve as scaffolds for the synthesis of antiviral agents with enhanced inhibitory capacity compared to the native molecules. Moreover, plant-derived anti-HCV compounds may provide future new therapies against hepatitis C to people with no access to expensive anti-HCV therapies. As the manuscript is well written and the study seems to be designed carefully, I recommend to publish it without changes.

Reply:

We are really thankful to the learned reviewer for the positive comments and recommendation to publish this article without any changes.

Science Editor Comments:

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a basic study of the screening of citrus compounds against NS3-HCV-G3a. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This study is interesting due to the fact that natural compounds may serve as scaffolds for the synthesis of antiviral

agents with enhanced inhibitory capacity compared to the native molecules. Moreover, plant-derived anti-HCV compounds may provide future new therapies against hepatitis C to people with no access to expensive anti-HCV therapies. As the manuscript is well written and the study seems to be designed carefully; and (3) Format: There are 6 figures. A total of 76 references are cited, including 8 references published in the last 3 years. There are 3 self-citations. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Biostatistics Review Certificate, and the signed Copyright License Agreement. The authors need to provide the original Institutional Review Board Approval Form. No animals are involved in the study. No academic misconduct was found in the CrossCheck detection and Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an unsolicited manuscript. The study is without financial support. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG. 5 Issues raised: (1) 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; (2) 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; and (3) I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section. Please write the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text. 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

Reply:

As per learned Editor’s comment, (1) Original Institutional Review Board Approval Form has been provided. (2) Original figures in editable format have been added. (3) PMID, DOI and list of all authors in the reference list have been added. (3) As suggested by the Editor, Article highlight section is also included.

All of the aforementioned corrections, suggestions, comments etc, raised by the Peer Science Editor, have been included in the revised manuscript, which is currently being uploaded. We hope that our revised manuscript will be accepted and get through to the publication stage of your esteemed journal.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours truly,

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