

November 10, 2013,

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our edited and revised manuscript in Word format (filename: "Helicobacter pylori and Lymphomagenesis – First Revision.docx"); it was prepared on Office 365. Should the tables or references be de-formatted, we would be pleased to also upload a pdf version of the file.

**Title:** The role of Helicobacter pylori in gastric mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphomas

**Authors:** Marta-Isabel Pereira, José Augusto Medeiros

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript number:** 6034

We would like to start by thanking the editorial board and the two Reviewers for the very helpful comments we received, and which we think have helped us vastly improve our manuscript. We will reply to each comment in sequence.

**Issue 1: Reviewer 1**

*"This is a well-written review paper for H. pylori infection in gastric MALT lymphoma."*

**Reviewer 2**

*"The authors present an extensive review of the literature regarding MALT lymphomas and the role of Helicobacter infection. The review is well written."*

*"There is little to comment on this paper. The language is almost flawless, the structure of the paper good and the references comprehensive."*

**Comment:** We thank both reviewers for their positive assessment of our manuscript.

**Issue 2: Reviewer 1**

*"However, it is better to understand easily if some Tables or Figures are included."*

**Reviewer 2**

*"An improvement to the readability would be to add some summarizing tables for some of the chapters."*

**Comment:** We agree with both reviewers that the manuscript would be greatly improved by the addition of summarizing tables. We have now added the following tables to the manuscript:

Table 1: World Health Organization-based classification of MALT lymphomas

Table 2: Recurrent chromosomal translocations described in MALT lymphomas

Table 3: Useful phenotypic markers for the differential diagnosis of MALT lymphoma

Table 4: Association between abdominal computerized tomography findings and the likelihood of low-grade and high-grade lesions

Table 5: Comparison of four frequently used staging systems for primary gastrointestinal lymphomas

Table 6: TNM staging system qualifiers

Table 7: International Prognostic Index (IPI) for aggressive B-cell lymphomas

Table 8: Chemotherapy treatment options in American and European guidelines

These tables were added (one per page) to the end of the manuscript, after the References section, and were adequately referenced in the main text.

### **Issue 3: Editors**

*"Please define it."*

**Comment:** The title has been re-written to include the full definition of the acronym.

### **Issue 4: Editors**

*"Author names should be given first, then the complete name of institution, city, province and postcode."*

**Comment:** Authorship and institutional affiliations have been updated to reflect the instructions.

### **Issue 5: Editors**

*"Please put the reference numbers in square brackets in superscript at the end of citation content or after the cited author's name. Please check across the text."*

**Comment:** Reference numbers have been moved to appear directly after the citation content, without a space. This was changed throughout the whole manuscript.

## **Issue 6: Editors**

*“Please add DOI citation to the reference list and list all authors.”*

**Comment:** New DOIs were added to the references wherever possible. In a few cases, no DOIs were obtained in a search of the [www.crossref.org](http://www.crossref.org) website (this was the case for references 4, 5, 6, 16, 20, 21, 24, 44, 45, 52, 54, 55, 63, 64, 70, 77, 78, 79, 80, 83, 93, 101, 103, 112, 113, 116, 125 – most of these references are either a) book references, b) older manuscripts, or c) non-english language journals); in a few other cases, articles were not indexed on PubMed (this was the case for reference number 34, and for several references corresponding to books or book chapters).

**Final comment:** In addition to these changes, a few minor changes were made occasionally to the text to improve readability or correct perceived language issues.

We thank you again for your continued support and for considering our manuscript for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

With kind regards,

Marta-Isabel Pereira

José Augusto Medeiros