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Editor

World Journal of Gastroenterology – WJG

31th January 2021

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my fellow-authors I am hereby submitting the invited review (ID: 03780138) titled “**COVID-19 and gastrointestinal tract: source of infection or merely target of the inflammatory process following SARS-CoV-2 infection?**” by J.Troisi, G. Venutolo, M. Delli Carri, M. Pujolassos, A. Landolfi and A. Fasano for publication in WJG journal.

We believe that our review may interest the Journal readership because, gastrointestinal symptoms are present in approximately 50% of COVID-19 patients, consisting mainly of diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal discomfort. Moreover, several studies have shown that SARS-CoV-2 is able to interact with ACE2 receptors on ileum enterocytes and colon epithelial cells, so that a tropism for the gastrointestinal tract has been reported. Moreover, several evidences let hypotize fecal-oral trasmission could represent a significative source of infection..

Manuscript format strictly adhere to the journal guidelines and Prof. A. Fasano also provided the language editing of the manuscript.

I also declare that all authors have read the manuscript, the paper has not been previously published, and it is not under simultaneous consideration by another journal.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Yours sincerely

Jacopo Troisi

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