

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



June 8, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6388-revised version.doc).

**Title:** Role of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in systemic rheumatic diseases

**Author:** Mislav Radić

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6388

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated and new references have been quoted (reference number 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 24). The English language is checked by native born English speaker.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

### Responses to 1st Reviewer comments:

1. Reviewer: *Helicobacter pylori* should be provided in the correct standard fashion throughout. The word *pylorus* should not be used. Italics should be used throughout  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. We have provided *Helicobacter pylori* term standardized through the manuscript.
2. Reviewer: The Abstract wording is replicated in the Introduction  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. Introduction section has been rewritten (page 7. line 17.-21.; 25.-29., page 9. line 23.-30., page 10. line 1.-5.)
3. Reviewer: In line 8 of the Abstract the text should read " in the gastric mucosa". In line 11, the word effectors should be written as effector.  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. It has been changed according to reviewer's suggestion (page 5. line 9., line 11.)
4. Reviewer: Superantigens is spelt incorrectly at least twice.  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. We have properly written superantigens (page 5. line 13.)
5. Reviewer: Line 7 of the CORE TIP needs to be re-written (it is not currently grammatically correct)  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. Line 7. in the CORE TIP has been rewritten (page 6. line 7.-10.)
6. Reviewer: Some areas are inadequately referenced: for instance, sentence two on page 4 should be referenced (e.g. to a report outlining the description of this pathogen)  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. We have quoted it adequately (page 7. line 30.)
7. Reviewer: CagA is a product (rather than there being products of this protein). Page 4.  
Answer: Suggestion accepted (page 8. line 22.-23.)
8. Reviewer: The Conclusion section (page 10) is not really a conclusion section. New concepts are introduced and aspects are brought together. This should be retitled as a discussion, with an actual conclusion to follow.  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. The section's title has been changed to Discussion. Furthermore, it has been rewritten (page 14. line 17.-19., page 15. line 25.-30., page 16. line 1.-13.)

9. Reviewer: The author could consider an image (or two) to augment the text of this work.  
Answer: Suggestion accepted. I have incorporated two figures to augment the text of this work (see Figure 1. and 2.)

#### **Responses to 2nd Reviewer comments:**

1. Reviewer: In the Abstract as well as in the Introduction the author use the name of bacterium *Helicobacter pylorus* which is not correct. It should be used only *H. pylori* (as a correct Latin genitive of the noun pylorus (Marshall BJ and Goodwin CS. Revised nomenclature of *C. pyloridis*. Int J Syst Bacteriol. 1987; 37: 68).  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. It have correctly used as *H. pylori* through the manuscript.
2. Reviewer: The author focused the attention mainly on the seroprevalence of *H. pylori* by different systemic rheumatic diseases. It should be mentioned additionally and described the possible mechanisms of immune response to *H. pylori* and particularly the possible role of cytotoxic strains of *H. pylori* (the role of CagA) in induction of immune response by aforementioned diseases.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. I have described the role of cytotoxic strains of *H. pylori* (page 10. line 28.-29., page 11. line 1.-6.)
3. Reviewer: Conclusion should be written more compact. Some possible immunological mechanisms including T-cell and B-cell response as well as the genetic predisposition are mentioned in Conclusion part for the first time and arise quite suddenly. The Conclusion should be more systematic.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. I have described possible immunological mechanisms (page 14. line 17.-26., page 15. line 26.30., page 16. line 1.-14.)

#### **Responses to 3rd Reviewer comments:**

1. Reviewer: I feel that from a methodological point of view any chapter should include a statement about how many papers have been evaluated and their characteristics (types of the study, patients included etc). This should better do by structured tables.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. I have incorporated in the text structured tables with the most important clinical trials (Table 1.)

#### **Responses to 4th Reviewer comments:**

1. Reviewer: In order to reflect the major content of the article; it is better to be "Role of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases".  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. The title has been changed according to the reviewer's suggestion.
2. Reviewer: ABSTRACT section: it fulfills the Journal requirements; however, the aim is not clearly identified  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. The aim has been specified (page 5. line 20.-21.)
3. Reviewer: INTRODUCTION section: Does not provide sufficient background regarding the studied topic, instead, repetition of data that has already been mentioned in the abstract section is obvious; e.g First five lines, "*Helicobacter pylorus* [*Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)] is one of the most widely studied.....". The aim of the work is not clearly identified.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. I have rewritten and redesigned the Introduction section according to the reviewer's suggestion (page 7. line 17.-21.; 25.-29., page 9. line 23.-30., page 10. line 1.-5.)

4. Reviewer: Text section; neither well covered nor well organized; also data repetition is quite evident throughout the text; some citations were missing and are supposed to be added; updated relevant citations were missing; **H. PYLORI AND IMMUNE SYSTEM** is irrelevant to the subheading, where, it is supposed to bring the reader to the role of *H.pylori* in autoimmunity and what are the mechanisms involved for such role, however, in the first 24 lines, the author discusses *H.pylori* as a microorganism, where this is better to be included in section of introduction; repetition of dana; microchimerism needs more clarification as a mechanism that explains the extra-intestinal manifestations of *H. pylori* infections.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. **H. PYLORI AND IMMUNE SYSTEM** has been deleted as the subheading. Microchimerism has been described in more detail (page 9. line 23.-30., page 10. line 1.-5.). Introduction section has been rewritten as previously mentioned in the query number 3.
5. Reviewer: Conclusion section: again the subheading is irrelevant to this section, where the section clearly describes role of *H.pylori* in inducing autoimmune diseases. This has to be put in its correct place early in the review. Conclusion is to conclude the author's main ideas of the presenting work; however, the provided data are not systematically presented in a way sufficient enough to come to conclusions.  
Answer: Suggestions accepted. The section's title has been changed to Discussion. It has been rewritten (page 14. line 17.-19., page 15. line 25.-30., page 16. line 1.-13.). Furthermore, I have incorporated one figure and the table to augment the Discussion section of this work (see Figure 2. and Table 1.)
6. Reviewer: References section: although, relevant references are well written, insufficient citations from most current literatures are obvious, where only 12/51 citations were cited from references  $\geq 2008$ ; Alignment to the journal style in mentioning authors' names is not adequately fulfilled.
7. Answer: Suggestions accepted. New references have been quoted instead old ones (reference number 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 24). Authors' names have been adequately fulfilled.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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