



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Stephan Menne, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Telephone: (202) 687-2949
Fax: (202) 687-1800
E-mail: sm923@georgetown.edu

May 2, 2021

Editors
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Journal title: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology
Manuscript NO: 64660

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the review of our manuscript (Manuscript NO: 64660) and for the opportunity to submit a revised version. The review provided helpful guidance for improving the manuscript. We have modified the manuscript to address all comments and recommendations. Please see below our point-by-point response to all comments made.

We trust that the concerns and recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed and that the revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology.

Sincerely,

Stephan Menne, PhD.
Associate Professor
Georgetown University Medical Center

Point-by-point response

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)
Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)
Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: This is a good review focusing the woodchucks chronically infected with the woodchuck hepatitis virus as the model for hepatocarcinogenesis and treatment for HCC. The volume and quality of the contents are interesting and sufficient as a reference of researchers. I consider this manuscript could be publish as it is.

Science editor:

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the application of the woodchuck animal model for the treatment of hepatitis B virus-induced liver cancer. The topic is within the scope of the WJGO.

(1) Classification: Grade A;

(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This is a good review focusing the woodchucks chronically infected with the woodchuck hepatitis virus as the model for hepatocarcinogenesis and treatment for HCC;

(3) Format: There are 3 tables and 3 figures;

(4) References: A total of 250 references are cited, including 34 references published in the last 3 years;

(5) Self-cited references: There are 37 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated;

Response:

We acknowledge the editor's comment and have removed 11 self-citing references. We kept 26 self-citing references as they are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript. The reason is that liver cancer/HCC treatment applications in the woodchuck model are limited but that my group was involved in many of these studies.

(6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A.

3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search.

4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. The study was supported by National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The topic has not previously been published in the WJGO.

5 Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

Response:

In the original manuscript we stated "Supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Grant no. 1-R43-CA133993-01 and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Contract nos. N01-AI-05399 and HHSN272201000011I."

Our intention was to acknowledge that many of the cited woodchuck studies were supported by the above grants. However, our manuscript was not supported by any of these grants and thus we removed the statement in the revised manuscript. We therefore have not uploaded copies of the grant approval documents by the funding agency.

(2) The authors did not provide original pictures. 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;

Response:

We have uploaded the original figures as power point files.

(3) If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, “Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]”. And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable.

Response:

We have replaced pictures shown within Figure 1.

Fig. 1A: neonatal woodchucks and Fig. 1B: adult woodchucks were replaced in the revised manuscript due to uncertain copyright issues regarding the original pictures, although these were shared with us. The new pictures shown in Fig. 1A and Fig. 1B are originals and we have the copyright to these.

Fig. 1C: FAH (top) and tumor (bottom) are reused pictures published previously in Gastroenterology. The original pictures are in our possession. We provide documentation that the previous publisher has given permission for the pictures to be republished (see 64660-Supplementary-Material) and indicate in the revised manuscript the reference source, copyrights, and cite the reference source in the reference list.

Fig 1D: These are original pictures that have not been published before.

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

(2) Editorial office director:

(3) Company editor-in-chief: I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

6 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Step 1: Author Information

Please click and download the Format for authorship, institution, and corresponding author guidelines, and further check if the authors names and institutions meet the requirements of the journal.

Response:

We changed parts of the information in the revised manuscript for meeting the requirements of the journal. We are unable to provide Dr. Manasa Suresh's institutional email address in the online system for whatever reasons. Her email address is as follows: ms3687@georgetown.edu

Step 2: Manuscript Information

Please check if the manuscript information is correct.

Response:

We have checked and confirm that the information is correct. However, the information provided under corresponding author appears redundant:

Corresponding author: Stephan Menne, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC 20057, United States. Electronic address: Stephan.Menne@georgetown.edu, Washington, District of Columbia 20057, United States. stephan.menne@georgetown.edu

We changed in the revised manuscript as follows:

Corresponding author: Stephan Menne, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC 20057, United States. Electronic address: stephan.menne@georgetown.edu

Step 3: Abstract, Main Text, and Acknowledgements

(a) Guidelines for revising the content: Please download the guidelines for Original articles; Review articles; and Case report articles for your specific manuscript type (Review) at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291>. Please further revise your manuscript according to the guidelines for revising the content.

(b) Format for Manuscript Revision: Please update the format of your manuscript according to the guidelines and requirements for manuscript revision and the format for manuscript revision. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

Response:

We have updated the format of our manuscript according to the guidelines and requirements provided and believe that the revised manuscript adheres now to the journal's format.

(c) Requirements for article highlights: If your manuscript is an original study (basic study or clinical study), meta-analysis, or systemic review, the "Article Highlights" section should be provided. Detailed writing requirements for "Article Highlights" can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

Step 4: References

Please revise the references according to the Format for references guidelines, and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.

Response:

We have checked each reference and believe that they adhere to the journal's format in the revised manuscript. References edited by the reference auto-analyser are included in the revised manuscript.

Step 5: Footnotes and Figure Legends

(a) Requirements for figures: Please provide decomposable Figures (whose parts are all movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as "64660-Figures.ppt" on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of "Image File".

Response:

All figures (Fig. 1-3) have been uploaded as a single PowerPoint file.

(b) Requirements for tables: Please provide decomposable Tables (whose parts are all movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as “64660-Tables.docx” on the system. The tables should be uploaded to the file destination of “Table File”.

Response:

All tables (Tables 1-3) have been uploaded as a single Word file.

Step 6: Automatically Generate Full Text Files

Please download the ”Full Text File” or click “Preview” to ensure all the contents of the manuscript automatically generated by the system are correct and meet the requirements of the journal.

Response:

We have done as requested and uploaded the full text file (see 64660-Manuscript-File-revision.docx).

Step 7: Upload the Revision Files

For all required accompanying documents (listed below), you can begin the uploading process via the F6Publishing system. Then, please download all the uploaded documents to ensure all of them are correct.

- (1) 64660-Answering Reviewers
- (2) 64660-Audio Core Tip
- (3) 64660-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form
- (4) 64660-Copyright License Agreement
- (5) 64660-Approved Grant Application Form(s) or Funding Agency Copy of any Approval Document(s)
- (6) 64660-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate
- (7) 64660-Video
- (8) 64660-Image File
- (9) 64660-Table File
- (10) 64660-Supplementary Material

If your manuscript has supportive foundations, the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s) must be provided. Otherwise, we will delete the supportive foundations.

Response:

We have uploaded all requested files. We were unsure regarding your expectations for 64660-Audio Core Tip, but have copied the Core tip section again.

In the original manuscript we stated “Supported by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Grant no. 1-R43-CA133993-01 and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Contract nos. N01-AI-05399 and HHSN272201000011I.”

Our intention was to acknowledge that many of the cited woodchuck studies were supported by the above grants. However, our review article was not supported by any of these grants and thus we removed the statement in the revised manuscript. We therefore have not uploaded copies of the grant approval documents by the funding agency.

If your manuscript has no “Video” or “Supplementary Material”, you don’t need to submit those two types of documents.

7 COPYRIGHT LICENSE AGREEMENT

Please click and download the Copyright License Agreement Form. Subsequently, a PDF (scanned) version of the Copyright License Agreement Form that has been signed by all authors should be uploaded to the file destination of ‘Copyright License Agreement’.

Response:

We have signed the form and uploaded as requested.

8 CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

Please click and download the fillable ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest (PDF), and fill it in. The Corresponding Author is responsible for filling out this form. Once filled out completely, the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form should be uploaded to the file destination of 'Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form'.

Response:

We have completed the form for the corresponding author and uploaded as requested.