

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

**Title:** HBeAg negative variants and their role in the natural history of chronic hepatitis B virus infection

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6772

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

1 Format has been updated

2 As suggested by the reviewers, we have incorporated two tables, Table 1 dealing with the association of the precore stop codon and the BCP variants with different HBV genotypes, and Table 2 dealing with the utility of HBsAg quantitation in either differentiating between inactive carriers and those with active disease or predicting HBsAg seroclearance. Moreover, we have added additional information in the legends to the figures so that their content is more fully explained. The figures are not new and are, thus the extra explanation should remove any uncertainty. In addition, the references were modified according to the Vancouver style.

As suggested by the Editors, author contributions and Core tip are included. The changes are highlighted.

We thank you and the reviewers for your constructive suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

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