

Cover Letter

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Authors first appreciate the great effort and comments from the editors and reviewers. The manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 76517, Minireviews) was made minor revisions according to each comment from the reviewers. The following steps outlined below were completed at re-submission.

Please check the responses to each point. All the revisions were tracked in the revised manuscript and were also pointed in the reply to the reviewers' comments in this letter.

Thank you so much. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Ming Yang, PhD

University of Missouri-Columbia

1 MANUSCRIPT REVISION DEADLINE

We request that you submit your revision in no more than **14 days**. **Please note that you have only two chances for revising the manuscript.**

Response: Authors agree to revise the manuscript and re-submitted on time.

2 PLEASE SELECT TO REVISE THIS MANUSCRIPT OR NOT

Please login to the F6Publishing system at <https://www.f6publishing.com> by entering your registered E-mail and password. After clicking on the "Author Login" button, please click on "Manuscripts Needing Revision" under the "Revisions" heading to find your manuscript that needs revision. Clicking on the "Handle" button allows you to choose to revise this manuscript or not. If you choose not to revise your manuscript, please click on the "Decline" button, and the manuscript will be WITHDRAWN.

Response: Author accepted to revise the manuscript according to all the reviewers' comments.

3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

Please resolve all issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and make a point-by-point response to each of the issues raised in the peer review report. Note,

authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s); these are listed below for your convenience:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: This is a comprehensive review regarding pancreatic cancer and gut microbiota in the context of COVID-19. I have no major concerns regarding the content or structure of the text. However the manuscript needs English editing.

Response: The authors appreciated the great comments from the reviewer. The English editing in the manuscript was carefully checked, edited, and extensively revised. All the edits and polishing of the language were tracked in the revised version.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: In the manuscript entitled “Crosstalk between gut microbiota and COVID-19 impacts pancreatic cancer progression” authors have tried to present an interesting phenomenon that COVID-19 infection caused alteration of gut microbiota may impact the progression of pancreatic cancer in patients via immune regulation. I have some minor comments to the text. The writing is poor. For example, a. “Additionally, we also proposed to explore the potential of modulating gut microbiota to create a favorable host environment to prevent both diseases, boost immune response, and reduce adverse prognostic outcomes by regulating the lung-gut-pancreases axis.” b. “In addition, treatment evaluation of synergistic strategies such as dual or multiple agents and targeting multiple targets are needed. ” Besides, to make this article more interesting, authors could try to reflect more of the clinical value, including its limitations.

Response: The authors appreciated the great comments from the reviewer.

As suggested by the reviewer, the clinical value and limitation were added and further discussed (Lines 297-345; From the clinical perspective, ..., That consideration helps develop the best options for health care and treatment.). More literature reports were referenced. We believe that the revised manuscript was strongly improved.

The English editing in the manuscript was carefully checked, edited, and extensively revised. All the edits and polishing of the language were tracked in the revised version.

4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

Once this step is completed, the manuscript will be quickly accepted and published online. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

Response: The English grammar was checked by a native English speaker in academic study.

5 ABBREVIATIONS

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/ definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly.

The basic rules on abbreviations are provided here:

(1) Title: Abbreviations are not permitted. Please spell out any abbreviation in the title.

(2) Running title: Abbreviations are permitted. Also, please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words.

(3) Abstract: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract.

Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*).

(4) Key Words: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key Words.

(5) Core Tip: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip.

Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)

(6) Main Text: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text.

Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)

(7) Article Highlights: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights. Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Example 2: *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*)

(8) Figures: Abbreviations are not allowed in the Figure title. For the Figure Legend text, abbreviations are allowed but must be defined upon first appearance in the text.

Example 1: A: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) biopsy sample; B: HCC-adjacent tissue sample. For any abbreviation that appears in the Figure itself but is not included in the Figure Legend textual description, it will be defined (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend. Example 2: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

(9) Tables: Abbreviations are not allowed in the Table title. For the Table itself, please verify all abbreviations used in tables are defined (separated by semicolons) directly underneath the table. Example 1: BMI: Body mass index; US: Ultrasound.

Response: The manuscript was formatted according to the above rules.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor:

The manuscript reported changes in intestinal microflora caused by COVID-19 infection, possibly affecting the progression of pancreatic cancer through immunomodulation. I find it a well-structured interesting study. Self Citation Count: 4 The self-referencing rate should be less than 3%. It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the

same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, please revise your reference list accordingly. The format of the table should be a three-line table.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Response: Only references 3, 37, 40 are from authors. Thank you.

(2) 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. Please be sure to use Reference Citation Analysis (RCA) when revising the manuscript. RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. For details on the RCA, please visit the following web site: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>. Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022. 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.

Response: Thank you for the comments. The Tables and Figures were revised according to the editorial officer's suggestions.

7 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING THE 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.

Step 2: Manuscript Information

Please check if the manuscript information is correct.

Step 3: Abstract, Main Text, and Acknowledgements

(1) Guidelines for revising the content: Please download the guidelines for Original articles, Review articles, or Case Report articles for your specific manuscript type (Minireviews) at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291>. Please further revise the content your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 is required. Detailed writing requirements for the "Article Highlights" can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

(4) Common issues in revised manuscript. Please click and download the [List of common issues in revised manuscripts by authors and comments](#) (PDF), and revise the manuscript accordingly.

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.

Reminder: It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, please revise your reference list accordingly.

Step 5: Footnotes and Figure Legends

(1) Requirements for Figures: Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “76517-Figures.pptx” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is ‘original’, the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022. Please click to download the sample document: [Download](#).

(2) Requirements for Tables: Please provide decomposable Tables (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as “76517-Tables.docx” on the system. The tables should be uploaded to the file destination of “Table File”.

Reminder: Please click and download the [Guidelines for preparation of bitmaps, vector graphics, and tables in revised manuscripts](#) (PDF), and prepare the figures and tables of your manuscript accordingly.

Step 6: Automatically Generate Full-Text Files

Authors cannot replace and upload the “Manuscript File” separately. Since we only accept a manuscript file that is automatically generated, 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. If you find that there is content that needs to be modified in the Full-Text File, please return to the corresponding step(s), modify and update the content, and save. At this point, you then have to click the "Save & Continue" button in Step 5 and the F6Publishing system will automatically regenerate the Full-Text File, and it will be automatically stored.

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) 76517-Answering Reviewers
- (2) 76517-Audio Core Tip
- (3) 76517-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form
- (4) 76517-Copyright License Agreement
- (5) 76517-Approved Grant Application Form(s) or Funding Agency Copy of any Approval Document(s)
- (6) 76517-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate
- (7) 76517-Video
- (8) 76517-Image File
- (9) 76517-Table File
- (10) 76517-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.

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

Response: The revised manuscript was submitted according to the above seven steps, with all the required documents.

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Response: Copyright was signed and uploaded.

9 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: The Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form was signed and uploaded.

Best regards,

Ming Yang, PhD
University of Missouri