Trento, 24th May 2022

Prof. Ke-Qin Hu, FAASLD, MD

Prof. Koo Jeong Kang, MD, PhD

Prof. Nikolaos Pyrsopoulos, FAASLD, AGAF, FACG, FACP, FRCP, MD, PhD

Editors-in-chief of "*World Journal of Hepatology*"

Dear Editors,

Thank you for reconsidering our manuscript entitled "The HCV burden: treating and educating people without prejudice", following the reviewers' evaluation.

We are pleased to note that the reviewers provided some very useful suggestions. We have attempted to address the points raised by implementing their recommendations and we believe that the quality of our manuscript has improved as a result. A version of the manuscript with track changes is included, as well as a clean copy. Point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments are included in the appendix.

We hope that you and the reviewers look forward to reading our revised document, and we anticipate hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Dr. **Andrea Michielan, MD**

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Point-by-point response to Reviewers

Reviewer: 1

"Specific Comments to Authors: This study intends to describe the impact of our HCV-dedicated service for substance use disorder (SSUD) with regard to PWIDs receiving anti-HCV therapy. Several suggestions: 1. Page 8, please add references or website after the following sentences: [Indications for DAA therapy followed the WHO criteria] ;[The HCV genotype was assessed prior to the start of treatment]; [the stage of liver disease was evaluated using transient elastography]; [The treatment regimen was based on the standard 12-week oral schedule with Sofosbuvir/ Velpatasvir or an 8-week oral Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir regimen]. "

R. Thank you for the interest shown in our study. With regard to the references, we have now added them after the sentences you have indicated.

2. "Page 10, please check [Thirty-eight out of 40 recruited patients were receiving opioid agonist maintenance therapy at study inclusion, whilst another 4 had just completed the treatment.] 38+4=42 not 40?"

R. Thanks for the observation. We have now modified the text, as follows: "Thirty-six out of 40 recruited patients were receiving opioid agonist maintenance therapy at study inclusion, whilst another 4 had just completed the treatment."

Reviewer: 2

"Specific Comments to Authors: I think this is an important topic for research. The manuscript is interesting, adheres to all journal standards and covers some important aspects. There are minor linguistic issues throughout the manuscript, which can possibly be solved easily by a native speaker. I think this is a very interesting research to publish. "

R. Thank you for the interest shown in our study. With regard to linguistic issues, a second language revision has been performed of the final version of this manuscript. Changes have been highlighted in the text.

(1) Science editor:

This is an observational study of the impact of a HCV-dedicated service for substance use disorder (SSUD) with regard to PWIDs receiving anti-HCV therapy. Reviewers pointed out this is an important topic of research. English should be polished by a professional English editing company.

R. Thank you for the interest shown in our study. With regard to linguistic issues, a second language revision has been performed of the final version of this manuscript. Changes have been highlighted in the text.

(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 Hepatology, 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. 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.

R. Thanks for the suggestion, we have modified the tables accordingly.