



January 06, 2023

To the Editorial Board

World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript number: 80054

Dear Editorial Board members and Reviewers,

First, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the editor and reviewers for their valuable time to make suggestions to improve the quality of our manuscript entitled **“Modulation of gut microbiota as a potential therapy to manipulate drug-induced hepatic damage in COVID-19 patients”** (Manuscript No.: 80054). We have revised the manuscript in accordance with the reviewer’s comments.

Firstly, we have changed the above-mentioned title of the manuscript to a new title of **“Gut microbiome therapeutic modulation to alleviate drug-induced hepatic damage in COVID-19 patients”** in response to one of the reviewer’s suggestions.

Please find our point-by-point reply to the reviewers’ comments below:

Reviewer 1:

Comment 1: *My suggestion is providing more detailed information or hypotheses in the potential therapeutic role of gut-liver axis, such as "gut bacteria-metabolites-liver bile acid process-certain liver cell function".*

Response 1: The link between gut bacteria metabolites and the liver has been discussed in different sections of the manuscript to explain the gut-liver axis and the potential therapeutic role of pre and probiotics.

Reviewer 2:

Comment 1: *Rewriting the research title with a new title that is consistent with the research goal of solving the research problem, and that the new title is no more than twenty words long and free of abbreviations in accordance with scientific research methodology.*

Response 1: We thank the reviewer for this point. We have revised the title of the manuscript as has been mentioned above in this letter.

Comment 2: *The volume of information must be balanced in the main parts that comprise the study abstract.*

Response 2: The manuscript has been revised and some additional information has been added in different sections of the manuscript (highlighted in blue).

Comment 3: *It must be taken into account in the results section of the study abstract to show the most important results that the research reached without going into excessive detail.*

Response 3: We have thoroughly revised the manuscript and rearranged it to address this comment.



Comment 4: The study's introduction should be in the form of paragraphs, preferably two, with the last paragraph highlighting the research problem and how to solve it within the framework of the current study's objective.

Response 4: The introduction section has been revised and split into paragraphs according to the objective of the study.

Comment 5: Are the two figures in the paper the work of the researcher/researchers, or are they taken from somewhere else? In this regard, please respect property rights.

Response 5: We ensure that the two figures added in the manuscript are original, created in our lab using BioRender software, and are not taken from somewhere.

Comment 6 & 7: What are the current research's limitations, strengths, and future directions? Please respond to this question in the section that follows the study's conclusion. 7. The study conclusion should be rewritten to clarify whether or not the current research problem has been solved. Are the two figures in the paper the work of the researcher/researchers, or are they taken from somewhere else? In this regard, please respect property rights.

Response 6 & 7: The conclusion section has been rewritten addressing all the comments mentioned above.

Comment 8: Some of the references are out of date. Work must be done to replace old references with garden ones, beginning in 2015 or later.

Response 8: We have removed all old references in the revised version of the manuscript except 3 references that are important to add to explain some findings. We couldn't make track changes in the revised manuscript to show the changes because our "Endnote" version doesn't accept track changes in the file.

Comment 9: The researcher/researchers should check the percentage of plagiarism and self-quoting to ensure that it is within the journal's permissible percentage.

Response 9: We do not have any software to check for plagiarism of the manuscript.

Reviewer 3:

Comment 1: Please correct (the COVID virus). COVID is not virus, it should be SARS-CoV-2.

Response 1: The correction has been made in "SARS-CoV-2 Pathogenesis" section and has been highlighted in blue.

Comment 2 & 3: Please rewrite the PATHOGENESIS section. Add some detailed information superficial details are not sufficient. 3. As your article is about COVID-19 and Gut Microbiota. Therefore, you should discuss the role of microbiota in COVID-19. PATHOGENESIS.

Response 2: The manuscript has been revised and some additional information has been added in the "Pathogenesis" section of the manuscript (highlighted in blue).

Comment 4: In the DRUG-INDUCED LIVER DAMAGE section. Your concentration should be on how Gut microbiota and drug use induce liver damage, etc.

Response 4: The Drug-induced liver-damaged section has been improved and its link with gut microbiota has been mentioned as well (all information has been highlighted in blue in the revised manuscript).

Additionally, we have corrected language mistakes in the revised manuscript as mentioned by the "Elsevier English Language Editor" (the English language certificate is attached).



We thank the reviewers and hereby submit our revised manuscript for consideration for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Nayla Munawar
Assistant Professor