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The Editor,
World Journal of Gastroenterology

April 10th 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 9329-revised.doc).

Title: Robotic Surgery of the Pancreas

Author: Daniel Joyce, Gareth Morris-Stiff, Gavin A Falk, Kevin El-Hayek, Sricharan Chalikonda, R. Matthew Walsh.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9229

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

1 Format has been updated and the abstract was rewritten as requested.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- We highlighted the possibility that the apparent superiority of robotic surgery may merely reflect the benefits of minimally invasive surgery and may not be exclusive to the robot. We make particular reference to this in the section concerning distal pancreatectomy. In the discussion we have added the example of colorectal surgery where the robot has not been shown to be superior to traditional laparoscopy.
- We reinforced the potential bias that may be affecting the results of the published studies to date including patient selection bias i.e. selecting more oncologically favorable tumors for the robotic approach. We also raised the possibility that the results emanate from high volume expert centers and that the safety of robotic pancreatic surgery for the 'average surgeon' is not proven.
- We decided to conclude the paper with a comment on cost since it is likely to determine the role of the robot in future surgical practice.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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