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April 21, 2014

Editor: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Re: **ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9655R1

Dear Editor:

Thank you again for the invitation to submit a review to help celebrate the 25th anniversary year of the World Journal of Gastroenterology. We have considered carefully the comments of the reviewers and of you, and, accompanying this cover letter, we herewith submit a revised manuscript. One copy is a 'clean copy' for publication; the second shows changes made in the 'track changes' mode of Microsoft Word.

Title: Hepatitis B and Liver Transplantation: Molecular and Clinical Features that Influence Recurrence and Outcome

Authors: Tahereh Ghaziani, Hossein Sendi, Saeid Shahraz, Philippe Zamor, Herbert L. Bonkovsky.

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Our detailed responses to the comments of the reviewers are as follows:

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) Abstract format and content has been revised. Table 1 was edited as suggested.

(2) We removed the detailed description of the double promoter mutation known as T1764G1766. We also added 4 more references (ref #8-11) on the clinical importance of these mutations while we also acknowledged the need for further studies on the role of this mutation in post-LT setting. We have also removed all the parts related to the CTL escape mutations as one of the reviewer suggested. We have also included summary description and discussion of the study of Luo et al., regarding the role of donor-specific lymphocytes in HBV recurrence in post-LT patients [new reference #29].

(3) It was suggested by the reviewer that we restructure the format of the review paper with exclusion of the past history and more emphasis on the clinical relevance of different prophylactic regimens on the transplant outcome. One of the chief goals of our review, as was stated in our concept and outline, was to provide a comprehensive summary of the evolution of hepatitis B infection and its

management in post liver transplant setting over the past 2 decades. We believe that this paper will provide comprehensive information to the target readers and that most readers will have interest in the recent history. We have also included majority of the published relevant and well-studied post transplant HBV prophylaxis regimens.

We have also had the entire paper reviewed by one of the authors for final edits and to assure cohesiveness of the draft.

The terms nucleoside (NS) and nucleotide (NT) were removed from the abbreviation part as we used NA throughout the manuscript that corresponds to nucleos/tide analogue (NA).

We edited "HBV polymerase" to "HBV RNA polymerase".

The structure of the Abstract was modified as suggested by reviewers 1 and 3.

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3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for your invitation. We trust that our revision will be adjudged worthy now of publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

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