

Subject: World Journal of Gastroenterology Manuscript NO: 63962 – Notification on manuscript revision

Mail Body: Dear Dr. Hamoudi,

We are pleased to inform you that, after preview by the Editorial Office and peer review, as well as CrossCheck and Google plagiarism detection, we believe that the academic quality, language quality, and ethics of your manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 63962, Basic Study) basically meet the publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastroenterology. As such, we have made the preliminary decision that it is acceptable for publication after your appropriate revision. Upon our receipt of your revised manuscript, we will send it for re-review. We will then make a final decision on whether to accept the manuscript or not, based on the reviewers' comments, the quality of the revised manuscript, and the relevant documents. Please follow the steps outlined below to revise your manuscript to meet the requirements for final acceptance and publication.

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.

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3 SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

Please resolve all issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report and make a point-by-point response to the issues raised in the peer review report. Authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and make point-by-point responses to the issues raised in the peer-review report(s), which are listed below:

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Using a previously published dataset, the authors investigated the transcriptome of liver samples from severe COVID-19 and non-COVID patients. Using in silico techniques, they compared the profile of genes expressed by COVID-19 patients with the genetic signatures of other liver diseases. To test the finding they investigated the expression of some of those genes in blood samples of healthy, severe COVID-19 patients with and without liver dysfunction using qRT-PCR. The study possesses some limitations as the low number of samples investigated, in both parts (liver samples and blood samples), and the lack of some protein analyses. Nevertheless, the manuscript is very clear

and objective, with interesting data for the investigation of hepatic dysfunction in COVID-19 patients and their molecular mechanisms.

> We thank the reviewer for their kind words and very glad that they feel the manuscript has objectivity and the data generated is of interest for the investigation of hepatic dysfunction in COVID-19 patients and highlight the molecular mechanisms.

4 LANGUAGE QUALITY

Please resolve all language issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report. Please be sure to have a native-English speaker edit the manuscript for grammar, sentence structure, word usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, format, and general readability, so that the manuscript's language will meet our direct publishing needs.

> We checked the linguistic aspects of the manuscript with native English speaker and ensured that he revised version is linguistically accurate

5 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: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a Basic Study of Hepatic Dysfunction Mechanisms in Severe COVID-19. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The manuscript is very clear and objective, with interesting data for the investigation of hepatic dysfunction in COVID-19 patients and their molecular mechanisms. (3) Format: There are 2 tables and 9 figures; (4) References: A total of 52 references are cited, including 27 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There is no self-cited reference; and (6) References recommendations (kindly remind): The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A. The manuscript is reviewed by a native English speaker. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Biostatistics Review Certificate and the Institutional Review Board Approval Form. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: The study was supported by University of Sharjah, Sharjah Research Academy, University of Sharjah and Al-Jalila Foundation Seed Grant. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5

Issues raised: (1) The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s).

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Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s); and (2) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure

documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor.

> We have uploaded the figures in Powerpoint format

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

(2) Editorial office director:

(3) 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 Gastroenterology, 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.

6 STEPS FOR SUBMITTING REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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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.

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Best regards,

Lian-Sheng Ma, Science Editor, Company Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Office

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