

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



April 22, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: WJG 1395 edited-revision).

**Title:** Cellular and molecular basis of chronic constipation: taking the functional/idiopathic label out

**Author:** Gabrio Bassotti, Vincenzo Villanacci, Dragos Creoiu, Sanda Maria Creoiu, Gabriel Becheanu

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1395-edited-revision

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

The manuscript entitled "Cellular and molecular basis of chronic constipation: taking the functional/idiopathic label out" submitted by Bassotti et al. addresses a central controversy and presents their arguments in a clear and concise way. The authors are encouraged to check the manuscript for grammar and sentence structure - but only a few sentences are affected by this.

1. In the Introduction, the sentence structure in the second paragraph is not clear - please revise the sentence.

*We have reviewed this sentence, and hope it reads better*

2. In the section entitled "Neuroenteric abnormalities in constipation" the authors mention nitric oxide release as the reason for constipation. Since nitric oxide is mainly related to vasodilation of blood vessels, how would this affect intestinal motility? Please briefly clarify.

*Actually, it is specified in the text that an increase of nitric oxide and a decrease of neurotensin mediate the decrease of cholinergic innervations and the increase of NANC innervations in patients with slow transit constipation [see also ref 43]. By no means it is stated in the text that nitric oxide directly affects intestinal motility.*

3. Furthermore, whenever an abbreviation is being used please include it when first introducing the term (ICC on page 5 and 6).

*We have corrected this. Thank you very much for pointing out this error.*

4. The section on "New cellular players in neuromotility disorders" contains some misspellings such as "individuated" and adjutants which should be "adjuvants".

*The misspellings have been corrected; many thanks for pointing out these.*

5. At the end of this section the authors provide a hypothesis which should be stated as such.

*As required, the hypothesis is now stated as such.*

6. A sentence in the conclusions section needs to be rephrased - "hide our ignorance of a topic" sounds rather unscientific.

*As required, the sentence was modified in a (hopefully) more readable manner*

Overall a very well written and thoughtful editorial which deserves publication after some minor revisions.

*Thank you for appreciating our work*

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

Sincerely yours,

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