

To the  
Editor of  
The World Journal of Gastroenterology

ref. number ESPS manuscript #10656  
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Re manuscript

Alexandra K. Kiemer, Ph.D.  
Professor of  
Pharmaceutical Biology

██████████  
D-66123 Saarbrücken, Germany

Dear Dr. Ma,

Since the website has indicated the status "Return for revising" for our manuscript entitled "Elevated free cholesterol as a hallmark of NASH in p62/IGF2BP2-2 transgenic animals" for three weeks we assume that we should modify our manuscript according to the reviewer's comments.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10656-review.doc).

The manuscript has been improved according to the reviewer's suggestions (reviewer code: 01407353):

**> Introduction lacks a brief "presentation" of the p62 protein. What is thought to be its physiological role?**

We have included a passage introducing the p62 protein in the introduction (Page 4, paragraph 3).

**> I don't understand how are results of wt animals presented in Fig 2 panels B and D.**

We have re-written the figure legends of figures 2 B and D. In both panels results of the MCD-fed transgenic animals are expressed as percentage of MCD-fed wild-type mice. MCD-fed wild-type mice were set to 100%.

**> Discussion should be significantly shortened and references consistently reduced: that's not a review.**



We have strictly shortened the discussion section to 2.5 pages. We have reduced the amount of references to no more than 49 references.

We hope that the revised version of our manuscript can now be published in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Alexandra K. Kiemer.

Alexandra K. Kiemer, Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmaceutical Biology