

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

September 29<sup>th</sup> 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name:12847-review.doc)

**Title:** Appropriate Prescribing in the Elderly – Current Perspectives

**Author:** Amanda Hanora Lavan, John O'Grady, Paul Francis Gallagher

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Pharmacology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 12847

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

1: "My only recommendation is that if perhaps a few additional figures to the available tables would be easy for readers to follow"

*Thank you for your recommendation. Three additional figures have been included to compliment the text. These are as follows: **Figure 1:** Commonly encountered clinically significant drug-disease interactions in older patients; **Figure 2:** Important considerations when evaluating the quality of prescribing decisions in older people; **Figure 3:** Influential factors when prescribing for the elderly with some examples.*

2: "It is better to use some figures to make the contents easy to understand. For example, in 'Introduction' section they summarized some problems for medication selection in older patients by long text. The authors can also use one figure to show the problems at one view"

*Thank you for your recommendation. Please see response to reviewer 1 above. Figure 2 specifically summarises important considerations when prescribing for the elderly.*

"In table 7 references for the explicit criteria should be listed chronologically"

*Thank you for your recommendation. We had originally listed the criteria chronologically according to their year of publication. We have revised the table in accordance with your recommendation to tabulate the criteria as per the chronological order of their references in the text.*

'In all tables the author used vertical bars. If possible, the authors should use only the horizontal bar without the vertical bar to make the tables conspicuous'

*Thank you for your recommendation. The tables have been formatted accordingly.*

3 'According to the physiological changes in elderly patients essential principles should be given for

appropriate prescription in the aspects of safety, cautions, options and dosage. For example, initial dosage is often different from maintenance dosage'

*Thank you for your recommendation. Figure 3 addresses this issue.*

'Chronic disease occur more frequently in the elderly and need to be discussed independently'

*Thank you for your recommendation. We have added a paragraph on chronic disease in older people (as highlighted in the text). We believe that our case history together with the new figures sufficiently address the complexity of prescribing for chronic diseases in the elderly.*

'Brief classification of drugs commonly used and comparison of prescription for younger people suggested'

*Thank you for your recommendation. Table 5 now provides some examples of commonly prescribed drugs and the differences in prescribing these drugs for younger and older adults.*

'Definition of the elderly should be clear with difference in region and gender'

*Thank you for your recommendation. We have included a definition of older adults in the opening paragraph and have discussed the difference with regard region and gender.*

'Typo and grammatical errors as well as misuse of punctuation exist'

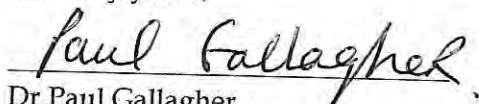
*Thank you for your recommendation. The entire text has been revised in this regard.*

4' It is recommended /in the introduction or in the conclusion/the authors to highlight one of the modern guidelines in personal pharmacotherapy: cures not the disease but a patient man. i.e. the different requirements in pharmacotherapy in the elderly are a matter of great frequency of observed changes in physiology and pathology, changes that can be observed in other age groups'

*Thank you for your review. We believe that we have illustrated the complexities of prescribing in older people throughout the text, and in the case history and figures.*

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

Sincerely yours,



Dr Paul Gallagher  
Consultant Geriatrician  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton, Cork  
Ireland



Dr Amanda Lavan  
PhD Research Fellow & Specialist Registrar in Geriatric Medicine  
University College Cork/Cork University Hospital  
Wilton, Cork  
Ireland