

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



April 7, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name:9096-review.doc).

**Title:** Polymorphism of Heat shock protein HSP70-2 and enterocutaneous fistula in Chinese population

**Author:** Jun Chen, Jianan Ren, Gang Han, Guosheng Gu, Gefei Wang, Xiuwen Wu, Bo Zhou, Dong Hu, Yin Wu, Yunzhao Zhao, Jieshou Li

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 9096

Thank you very much for your email with encouraging news regarding our manuscript. We also thank the reviewers for their positive/constructive comments and suggestions, which truly helped us to improve our manuscript. After incorporating their comments into the revised manuscript, I would like to resubmit it for your consideration for publishing in World J Gastroenterol. The amendments are highlighted in red in the revised manuscript, and our point-by-point answers to the reviewers' comments are attached below. This manuscript has been edited and proofread by Medjaden Bioscience Limited (Hong Kong, China).

Reviewer #1

Major comments: There are important limitations of the genetic study such as the small sample size, the need of a validation cohort and the lost of statistical significance of PstI polymorphism after the multivariate analysis. Could you please discuss these issues more critically in the discussion section?

**We fully understand the reviewer's concern and agree. We have added more discussion in the revised manuscript accordingly.**

Minor comments:

1. The putative functional effect of the selected polymorphism, its location (intron-exon) and the consequence in the protein expression or function. Are there data available in previous studies of the authors or other groups?

**We fully understand the reviewer's concern. For your information, the localization and polymorphism consequences of Heat shock protein HSP70-2 have been described in the literature and in this manuscript, Refs 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 27, 31, 32, 33, and 38 also discussed such data.**

2. Introduction: second paragraph, authors described that genetic and epigenetic factors influence enterocutaneous fistula development, please provide references.

**We thank the reviewer and have added a reference accordingly.**

3. Patients: the authors should give more details about control population recruitment (inclusion/exclusion criteria). How and why they were selected?

**We thank the reviewer for the constructive suggestion and have added the corresponding information accordingly. These controls were from the Healthcare System Center of Jinling Hospital. They did not have enterocutaneous/enteroatmospheric fistulas, any known IBD, or another autoimmune disease**

according to their medical history and laboratory tests. They were recruited to match the gender and age of our patients.

4. In the results, second paragraph on page 9, last sentence should be: However, there were no significant differences in fistula location between HSP70-2 genotypes and alleles among these patients.

We revised this sentence accordingly.

5. Age was included in the multivariate analysis?

Yes! We did add it in the revised manuscript accordingly.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

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