

November 7, 2013



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 6085-review.doc).

Title: *Helicobacter pylori* γ -glutamyl transpeptidase: a formidable virulence factor

Authors: Samantha Shi Min Ling, Khay Guan Yeoh, Bow Ho

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 6085

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Abstract has been re-written to include at least 200 words.

3 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the editor

- (1) Core Tip has been included
- (2) Author contributions have been added
- (3) The decomposable figure of Figure 1 is provided as a powerpoint format in the manuscript. The ppt file has also been uploaded separately.

4 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

- (1) According to the suggestion by reviewer #02536349, *H. pylori* γ -glutamyl transpeptidase has been abbreviated as "HpGGT" throughout the text to prevent confusion.
- (2) According to the suggestion by reviewer #02441737, a summary table of the implications of HpGGT on peptic ulcer disease, gastric epithelium damage by apoptosis, promotion of inflammation, upregulation of heparin-binding epidermal growth factor-like growth factor and modulation of host immune response has been included on pages 14-15 of the edited manuscript as Table 1. The table is entitled "Summary of effects of HpGGT on the host and the possible underlying mechanisms involved".
- (3) According to the suggestion by reviewer #01445931, a brief comment about the potential applications of HpGGT on clinical practice has been added at the end of the conclusion (page 12, last sentence) and reads as: "In addition, it could.....all *H. pylori* strains".
- (4) According to the suggestion by reviewer #02444931, the differences between HpGGT from different *H. pylori* strains and the GGTs from other bacteria species have been included in the manuscript (page 5, bottom 3 lines to page 6, top 4 lines) and reads as: "Interestingly, the amino acid sequence.....all *H. pylori* strains".

5 In order to facilitate identifying the requested changes made to the manuscript, all changes have been highlighted in yellow within the revised version of the paper.

6 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bow HO', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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