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To Li-Jun Cui

Editor,
World Journal of Hepatology

Dear Sir,
enclosed please find the revised version of our manuscript “Cell fusion in the liver, revisited” by my colleagues and myself.

We have met all the suggestions of the referees.

- 1) The manuscript has been revised by a native English language speaker.
- 2) As suggested by referee 1, we have added a paragraph on the role of cyclins in liver cell division (page 5) and added two pertinent references (n° 11 and 12 of the reference list).
- 3) As requested by referee 2, who suggested to give more relevance to experiments reporting true transdifferentiation, we modified the title of a subchapter (Transdifferentiation and fusion: a debate not yet settled, page 5) as well as its last paragraph (page 9). We acknowledge that transdifferentiation of bone marrow cells to cells of other lineage is still an open question, at least in some settings. We added 4 references of papers dealing with this possibility (references 61-64).
- 4) With regard to the issue of *in vitro* experiments about hepatocyte fusion, we have already mentioned this point (page 10) and cited two papers on this topic. However we feel that these experiments are not particularly representative, since they do not use primary liver cells but only neoplastic ones. To our knowledge there are not more pertinent papers in literature.

We hope that our manuscript is now ready for publication.

We take the opportunity to wish you and the Editorial Staff a Happy New Year.

Francesca Faggioli