



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL COLLEGE  
OF GEORGIA

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
Digestive Health Center  
1120 15<sup>th</sup> Street, AD2226  
Augusta, Georgia 30912  
Academic Phone (706) 721-2238  
Academic Fax (706) 721-0331  
Clinic Phone (706) 446-4887 (GUTS)  
Clinic Fax (706) 446-4329 (GFAX)

**Kenneth J. Vega, MD**  
Professor and Chief,  
Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
Co-Director, DHC  
kvega@augusta.edu

AU Faculty

Steve Ellison, MD  
Associate Professor  
stellison@augusta.edu

Satish S.C. Rao, MD, PhD  
Professor  
Director, Neurogastroenterology &  
Motility  
Director, DHC Clinical Research  
srao@augusta.edu

Amol Sharma, MD  
Associate Professor  
amosharma@augusta.edu

Humberto Sifuentes, MD  
Associate Professor  
hsifuentes@augusta.edu

Subbaramiah Sridhar, MBBS, MPH  
Professor  
ssridhar@augusta.edu

John Erickson L. Yap, MD  
Assistant Professor  
jyap@augusta.edu

VA Faculty

Leonard Little, Jr. MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Leonard.littlejr@va.gov

Charles L. Spurr, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
charles.spurr@va.gov

Fellows

Ahmad Alkaddour, MBBS – 2nd Year  
Sharjeel Arshad, MBBS – 3rd Year  
Mohammad Asfari, MD – 3rd Year  
Shreyans Doshi, MD, - 2nd Year  
Asad Jehangir MBBS - 1st Year  
Isaac Perry, DO – 2nd Year  
Haoran Peng, MD - 1st Year  
Anas Raed, MD – 2nd Year  
Pearl Uy, MD – 3rd Year

Advance Practice Providers

Anna Walker, PA  
Kristin Harper, PA  
Karmen Elsen, PA  
Ashley Sabb, APRN, FNP

25 October 2020

Fatih Altintoprak, MD and Sahin Coban, MD.  
Editors-in-Chief, Artificial Intelligence in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Re: AIGE 59952, Title: Artificial Intelligence in Barrett's esophagus: A Renaissance but not a Reformation

Dear Drs. Altintoprak and Coban,

Below please find point-by point responses to reviewer 1 and science editor's comments. Our responses are in *italic* and in bold within the text of the revised manuscript. We believe that all concerns have been addressed.

Reviewer 1:

This paper describes the applications of artificial intelligence in Barrett's esophagus. I enjoyed reading this paper. However, there are some problems to be resolved. 1. Can the authors add a table or an image to the manuscript? 2. Can the authors discuss more about the difficulties of artificial intelligence in distinguishing Barrett's esophagus from esophageal cancer?

*We appreciate the reviewer's comment and have added table 1 highlighting the most relevant paper on AI in BE. Furthermore, we have discussed data distinguishing Barrett's esophagus from esophageal cancer in the editorial's 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph as follows: The struggles that have been encountered in using AI for identification of Barrett's mucosa have been encountered in identifying early esophageal cancers. Though promising, the thresholds to detect early esophageal cancer are below PIVI criteria which may be secondary to limited images and lack of ability to identify images in real time. Hashimoto et al may have found a way to overcome previous difficulties by being able to create a faster algorithm which allowed for a real time video overlay using a large database of images. Using this technique, Hashimoto and associates were able to identify early esophageal neoplasms with high accuracy [14].*

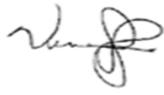
Science editor:

The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions; PMID numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and to the reference list and list all authors of the references.

*We appreciate the science editor's comments and have added author contributions to the title page of the editorial. Also, we have added PMID numbers for all references and listed each author on all of the references.*

Thank you again for continued consideration of our editorial for publication in Artificial Intelligence in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Respectfully,

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

**Kenneth J. Vega MD, FACP, AGAF**

Professor of Medicine

Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Department of Medicine

Augusta University-Medical College of Georgia