

Dear Editor of the World Journal of Gastroenterology

Following your letter regarding the manuscript “**Targeting TMPRSS2 and ACE2 anti-inflammatory receptors as therapeutic pathway for COVID-19 / IBD overlap**” (Manuscript NO.: 65842) submitted to World Journal of Gastroenterology for publication, we send the rebuttal letter explaining the changes performed on the manuscript. We found the comments very helpful and constructive. We have addressed all the changes recommended by the reviewers and we are confident that the new version of the manuscript is easier to understand and has a more fluent scientific discourse.

Best regards,
Amir Hossein Abdolghaffari

Reviewer 1:

The article contributes significantly to the greater and better knowledge of the inflammatory process related to COVID-19, especially with regard to the cytokine rain and its control possibilities. The results of the study may favor the control of the inflammatory response or even the development of antagonists to this process. The authors followed all the recommendations made by the reviewers and I recommend ACCEPTING the article for publication.

We really appreciate your kind recommendation.

Reviewer 2:

I believe that the manuscript entitled "Targeting TMPRSS2 and ACE2 anti-inflammatory receptors as therapeutic pathway for COVID-19 / IBD overlap" makes a significant contribution to the study of the inflammatory process associated with COVID19, including the immune storm. The results of the study can offer subsidies for future therapeutic options for these patients. Conclusion: Accepted for publication.

We really appreciate your kind recommendation.

Science Editor:

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the targeting TMPRSS2 and ACE2 anti-inflammatory receptors as therapeutic pathway for COVID-19/IBD overlap. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B and Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The article contributes significantly to the greater and better knowledge of the inflammatory process related to COVID-19, especially with regard to the cytokine rain and its control possibilities. The results of the study can offer subsidies for future therapeutic options for these patients; and (3) Format: There is 1 table and 1 figure. (4) References: A total of 98 references are cited, including 96 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are no self-cited references; and (6) References recommend: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by peer reviewer(s), especially the references published by the peer reviewer(s) themselves. If the authors found the peer reviewer(s) request the authors to cite improper references published by themselves, please send the peer reviewer's ID number to the editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B and Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5 Issues raised:

- 1) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor; (2) Please obtain permission for the use of picture(s). If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, “Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]”. And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable. 6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

We declare that this is an original figure. We have provided the PowerPoint file.

We also tried to improve the language of the manuscript.