Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: Louis21042015.doc).

Title: How tubular epithelial cells dictate the rate of renal fibrogenesis

Author: Kevin Louis, Alexandre Hertig

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Nephrology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17073

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

Referee #00503196

We have corrected our misprint for refs 20 and 40.

Referee #01704618

1. The manuscript was shortened (it is now 2755 words).
2. Clinical studies mentioning the importance of metabolic acidosis or a fruit-based regimen in CKD patients were added (Goraya et al, CJASN and Kidney Int).
3. Table 1 has been created, which reports on the main message of articles we refer to.

Referee #00502999

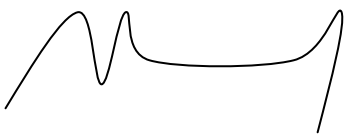
1. English language was revised by Felicity Kay
2. Introduction was shortened from 671 words to 592 words.
3. We now allude to PAI-1, which is indeed a key player in fibrogenesis and which may be secreted by the epithelium itself. The review by Eddy et al has also been added.
4. The link between HIF and VEGF is now specifically mentioned in the context of diabetes mellitus.
5. We have provided further details with regard to the results obtained during the Certitem study (now online). The hypothesis that mTORi might affect fibrogenesis through the down-regulation of VEGF is now also mentioned (though not with regard to the Certitem study, since under-immunosuppression and rejection were a more reasonable explanation for the failure of the study).

Referee #00503228

No comment. We thank the referee for this.

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

Sincerely yours,



Alex Hertig, MD, PhD