



December 22nd, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 13252-review corrected.doc).

Title: Hepatitis C virus genetic variability and evolution

Author: Natalia Echeverría, Gonzalo Moratorio, Juan Cristina, Pilar Moreno

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 13252

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

1 Format has been updated placing each figure in a separate page and also each figure legend in a separate page. Tables have been modified as well to fit your guidelines. In addition, postcodes have been added.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) 00742222: This reviewer stated that he found a minor mistake in the statement "The mutation rate of HCV, estimated at 10^{-4} substitutions per site and round of replication [38]...". However, we would like to mention that we have not corrected this data as this is exactly as reported in Bartenschlager & Lohmann, 2000 [38]; we would also like to point out that there is a difference between evolutionary rate (estimated at 10^{-3} substitutions per site per year for HCV) and mutation rate (measured as substitutions per site and round of replication), meaning that not all mutations generated by the RNA polymerase will be fixed over time, therefore, evolutionary rate is measured per year, and it counts only those mutations fixed in the population.

3 References and typesetting were corrected. As requested, citations have been put as numbers in square brackets as superscript font. In addition, all references have been modified to match the format accepted. Please note that when no DOI number was available, only the PMID number was provided.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pilar Moreno', with a large, sweeping underline.

Pilar Moreno, PhD

Laboratorio de Virología Molecular

Centro de Investigaciones Nucleares

Facultad de Ciencias

Universidad de la República

11400 Montevideo, Uruguay

Phone: +598-2525-0800

E-mail: pmoreno@cin.edu.uy