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## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 18947

**Title:** Progress in the development of preventive and therapeutic vaccines for hepatitis C virus infection

**Reviewer's code:** 00049727

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Ya-Juan Ma

**Date sent for review:** 2015-05-07 09:28

**Date reviewed:** 2015-05-18 21:06

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review is well-written. The authors should add the descriptions regarding recent anti-HCV therapies, such as DAA, in the Abstract.



ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 18947
Title: Progress in the development of preventive and therapeutic vaccines for hepatitis C virus infection
Reviewer's code: 00037018
Reviewer's country: Italy
Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma
Date sent for review: 2015-05-07 09:28
Date reviewed: 2015-05-19 22:10

Table with 4 columns: CLASSIFICATION, LANGUAGE EVALUATION, SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT, CONCLUSION. It contains checkboxes for various review criteria like 'Grade A: Excellent', 'Duplicate publication', 'Plagiarism', etc.

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Major points Please make a schema/figura summarizing immune response against HCV virus (chapter 3) Minor points Core tip and abstract: please change the last sentences of both, which are now very general, giving more details on the content of the review. Chapter 1: Please give direct example of direct acting antivirals and mention explicitly type and incidence of adverse effects. Chapter 2: the sentence "P7 is the first non-structural (NS) protein located after structural proteins with unknown function"; Located in the virus genome? Please explain, the sentence is not very clear. Chapter 3.2: the sentence "Recent studies suggest that patients with HCV infection show an elevated level of activated B cells and people with defects in antibodies experience rapid progression of disease, emphasizing the role of humoral immunity in HCV [60-62]. Patients with hypogammaglobulinaemia could spontaneously resolve acute hepatitis C, suggesting that humoral immunity is not essential for HCV clearance [63]." seems contradictory, please give more details. Chapter 3.3: even the sentence "Patients who lack efficient cytotoxic T cell response develop persistent hepatitis C infection but the magnitude of cytotoxic T cell response is not associated with



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the clinical outcome [74]" seems contradictory, please explain. Chapter 4.1: Was really just one individual reported in the literature as presenting an infection from a quasispecies of HCV? This does not sounds like a very high contribution of quasispecies to HCV infections globally. Please revise and/or provide more details. Chapter 4.2: please check the word "persistent" in the title The sentence "In exhaustion, T cells lose their ability to produce IL-2 which is essential for T cell production" is not clear, please revise. Chapter 4.3, first paragraph: Is it true that no other mammal could besides human, chimpanzees and tree shrews can be infected with HCV virus? Not even other primate? Why is this? Please give more details on proofs of this and insight on cellular/molecular reasons. last paragraph: Is the genome of JFH1 the same as HCV? What is the difference between the two viruses? Please give more details Chapter 5, first sentence: please revise "following complications". Chapter 5.3: Please give a more organized introduction explaining in general terms how DNA vaccines work. Chapter 5.4, first paragraph: The sentence "since there is no HLA restriction" is not clear, please give more details on why "Compared to DNA vaccines, vector based vaccines introduce a broader range of viral epitopes and induce broader CD4+ and CD8+ T cell responses" Conclusion is too long and not clear: please revise.