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Dear Dr. Wang

On behalf of my co-authors, we thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to revise our manuscript. We are very grateful to the editor and reviewers for their positive and constructive comments and suggestions regarding our manuscript entitled "Role of the Extracellular Matrix in Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Manuscript Number: 81007). We have carefully considered the editor's and reviewers' comments and have revised our manuscript according to these comments. We have tried our best to improve the manuscript and have made some changes, which are marked in the revised manuscript. In addition, to further improve its clarity and readability, the manuscript has been edited for proper English language usage by the highly qualified native English-speaking editors at American Journal Experts. These changes have not influenced the content or framework of the paper. Please find the attached revised version of the manuscript, which we would like to submit for your kind consideration. We sincerely appreciate the work of the editor and reviewers, and we hope that the corrections will meet with your approval. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Yours sincerely

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Point-by-point responses to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1

Comment:

The authors conclude: As the specific mechanisms targeting this aspect are unclear, the therapeutic course for ECM should be explored as possible targets for long-term therapy, as cured patients still develop sequelae. Discuss on this statement in particular on identification, during the acute phase of disease, of COVID-19 survivors at risk of developing permanent pulmonary damage and fibrosis.

Response: Thank you for kindly comments. We have modified the it in the revised edition (page 3).

Reviewer #2

Comment: The manuscript entitled Role of the Extracellular Matrix in Coronavirus Disease by Jia-jia Huang et. al. is a review that details the changes in different components of the extracellular matrix during SARs CoV-2 infection. While this information is important, it needs several improvements before it can be accepted for publication. Many components of ECM and the changes associated with SARS CoV-2 have been detailed. However, a little more inclusion of experimental/ post mortem evidence to support these would be better. A more comprehensive approach on how changes to the ECM components are leading to the disease manifestation needs to be discussed. Figure 1 should include the interrelationships between each ECM component. A map of how each ECM component is being altered, which protein of SARS CoV-2 may be implicated (if known) would help further. Table 1 can be omitted as it doesn't add to the manuscript. Instead Table 2 should include all ECM components, not just the MMPs.

Response: Thank you for your instructive comment. We have added the

suggested content to the manuscript on page 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16. The table and figure have been modified accordingly.

Reviewer #3

Comment:

Congratulations to the authors for the successful review. The long-term effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are a matter of curiosity. In the Abstract section, I suggest emphasizing the pulmonary extracellular matrix, which is the main topic of the article, and reviewing the article for spelling and punctuation errors.

Response: Thank you for your instructive comment. We have modified several parts, emphasizing the pulmonary extracellular matrix. The manuscript has been edited by the highly qualified native English-speaking editors at the American Journal Experts company (verification code 2E66-06CF-40F1-1016-0CCB). We believe that the readability of article has been greatly improved. The certificate of editing is as follows.

