

To: Mr. Jin-Lei Wang

Science Editor, Editorial Office

Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

5th July 2018.

Dear Mr. Wang,

WORLD JOURNAL OF CLINICAL CASES MANUSCRIPT NO: 40161

Title: DEFENSIVE MEDICINE: IT IS TIME TO FINALLY SLOW DOWN AN EPIDEMIC

Thank you for your review of the manuscript. We offer the following replies to Reviewer No. 00722050:

- 1) *"The role of residents, i.e. the sentence "So, doctors must be allowed to spend the necessary time with their patients, a privilege that even residents/registrars in the hospitals no longer have" need to be extensively discussed with CME/CPD requirements and learning factors for residents".*

We have added on page 6 the sentence "In fact published studies indicate the predominance of activities indirectly related to patients; residents spend much more time using a computer than they do with patients.[19-21]". An extensive discussion of CME/CPD requirements and learning factors for residents is beyond the scope of our Editorial.

- 2) *"The role of autopsy as learning factor for physicians. The missing contribution of this important activity in our society has deployed enormous consequences in the health care system and the authors need to target the autopsy in a paragraph".*

We have added on page 8 the paragraph "A defensive attitude may also contribute to the huge reduction in the number of requests for autopsies worldwide.[26,27] Even though many other factors have contributed to such impressive reduction over the last few decades, one reason is the fear of some doctors that they could be sued should the findings prove a wrong diagnosis or a clinically missed pathology.[28]".

We have also taken into account the CrossCheck report and revised the manuscript accordingly (see words in bold in various pages) and we have added five additional references (in red).

Kind regards,

Sandro Vento