

June 23, 2015

Dr. Jing Yu  
Science Editor, Editorial Office  
Baishideng Publishing Group

Response to reviewers: Invited Review ESPS MS #19526

Dear Dr. Yu:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise the review article submitted to the World Journal of Gastroenterology entitled "Tight Junction Disruption: Helicobacter pylori and Dysregulation of the Gastric Mucosal Barrier". Below is a point by point response to the reviewer comments, which were helpful in making the article read better. Except for item 1, all other changes are in blue font.

1. We re-ordered the sub-sections exactly as requested by the reviewer.
2. In the Introduction, page 4, we added the fourth section to the stomach.
3. We wrote-out all of the abbreviations in the text and then made a new section with those abbreviations used repeatedly throughout the manuscript. This section can be found after the Key Words.
4. We defined cdx2 in the text, page 19 lines 6-7, as requested.
5. We made a new table, Table 1, which aims to organize all of the human claudins as requested by the reviewer. We agree with the reviewer that this makes the section much easier to read and understand. In adding the new Table 1, we re-labeled the previous Table 1 as Table 2. We deleted references in that section of the text and refer instead to Table 1, which lists the appropriate references.

We still request assistance to obtain permission to publish a schematic diagram copyrighted by the Baishideng Publishing Group, which was in a review article by Karem SM in World J Gastroenterol 2010; 16: 538-546 [PMID: 20128020]. The schematic diagram was incorporated in our figures as Figure 2A. We asked for permission to use the diagram from Dr. Karem, and he enthusiastically supported this request. We submitted a formal request to use this figure but have not heard back from your group.

As additionally mentioned in the initial letter to the editor, we would like to disclose that the two images in Figure 1 of our article were taken from the WIKI site; I researched the potential copyright conflict but the web site indicates that the images can be used or modified as we wish to do—that they are licensed under the creative commons attribution 3.0 and we can use them freely. Should you have any concerns about using this material in our review article please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our revised manuscript.

Sincerely,  
Susan Hagen