

**UNIVERSITY OF YAMANASHI
FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

Hiroshi Kono, M.D., Ph.D.
First Department of Surgery
Faculty of Medicine
University of Yamanashi
1110 Shimokato, Chu-o,
Yamanashi 409-3898, Japan
TEL/FAX: 81 55 273 7390
E-mail: hkouno@yamanashi.ac.jp

January 25, 2016

Dr. Damian Garcia-Olmo
Editor-in-Chief
World Journal of Gastroenterology
Department of Surgery,
Universidad Autonoma de Madrid; Department of General Surgery,
Fundacion Jimenez Diaz University Hospital,
Madrid 28040, Spain

Dear Dr. Damian Garcia-Olmo:

Thank you for your letter regarding our manuscript entitled “Macrophage colony-stimulating factor expressed in non-cancer liver tissues provides a predictive power for recurrence in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma” by Hiroshi Kono, Hideki Fujii, Shinji Furuya, Michio Hara, Kazuyoshi Hirayama, Yoshihiro Akazawa, Yuuki Nakata, Masato Tsuchiya, Naohiro Hosomura, and Chao Sun for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

We were pleased that the reviewer found our data found interesting, and we appreciate these helpful comments. We have addressed the concerns of the reviewer in the new version of our manuscript. Enclosed please find the revised manuscript and figures. The following is a point-by-point response to the suggestion and queries of the reviewer.

Thank you for the opportunity to incorporate your useful suggestions and those of the reviewers into the revision of this manuscript. We hope that you now find this study suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely,

Hiroshi Kono

Comments of Reviewer #1

We were pleased that the reviewer found our data merit, and we appreciate your helpful comments.

The answer to Reviewer #1

Major points:

1. The reviewer pointed out that in Table 2, “Indx of CD163 <26 vs ≥ 26 ” and “M-CSF density <36 vs ≥ 36 ” are wrong. Therefore, the reviewer requested that the authors should calculate it again to make sure. We agreed with the reviewer’s comments. Accordingly, we have re-calculated it and fixed the Table 2 in the revised manuscript (See new Table 2). The reviewer pointed out that on page 12, there is a concept mistake and the descriptions in this page are wrong. We agreed with the reviewer’s comment. Accordingly, we have revised this mistake in the revised manuscript (page 12, lines 3 and 6). .
3. The reviewer pointed out that in Figures 3 and 4, the range of stratified group are mislabeled. Accordingly, we have revised these mislabels in the revised manuscript (See new Figures 3 and 4) Thank you for the opportunity to incorporate your useful and helpful suggestions and those of the reviewer into the revision of this manuscript. We hope that you now find this study suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely

Hiroshi Kono