

[March 19, 2022]

Subrata Ghosh & Andrzej S. Tarnawski  
Editors-in-Chief  
*World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Dear Editor:

We wish to re-submit the manuscript titled “**Intermittent hypoxia is involved in gut microbial dysbiosis in type 2 diabetes mellitus and obstructive sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome.**” The manuscript ID is 74822.

We thank you and the reviewers for your thoughtful suggestions and insights. The manuscript has benefited from these insightful suggestions. I look forward to working with you and the reviewers to move this manuscript closer to publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

The manuscript has been rechecked and the necessary changes have been made in accordance with the reviewers’ suggestions with colored text (Red). And we have performed further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be corrected. The responses to all comments have been prepared and attached herewith.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
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#### **Reviewer 1 Comments:**

Although authors identify the main microorganisms associated to this dysfunction some concerns are regarding this manuscript: the small sample size and the causal relationship between T2DM complicated by OSAHS and gut microbiota; instead, could signalize the main asportation, as its advantages and disadvantages to solve in future research.

#### **Response to Review 1:**

1) Regarding the sample size, since there are few studies on gut microbiota in T2DM patients with OSAHS, the principle was partially taken into account in sampling, that is, how many subjects were used in intestinal microecological studies in this field. Ko CY et al. discussed the influence of AHI severity on the gut microbiota of OSA patients in 2019 (**Reference 12**), and selected 93 subjects (totally divided into 4 groups). Of course, it is really true as reviewer

suggested that more subjects are needed if the results to be discovered are considered significant. So in the follow-up study, we will expand the subjects on the basis of strict control according to the opinions and suggestions of reviewers, so as to further increase the credibility of the study results.

2) I would like to thank the reviewers for their affirmation and concern of my paper. We will further confirm the causal relationship between T2DM complicated by OSAHS and gut microbiota through animal experiments, intervention and follow-up studies.

**Reviewer 2 Comments:**

I have no corrections or further work to propose for the improvement of the manuscript and therefore it can be published unaltered.