June 19, 2021

Dear Dr Lian-Sheng Ma ,

Thank you for your letter regarding our Manuscript NO.: 63460, Review entitled " Epidemiology of Type 2 Diabetes in the Middle East and North Africa: Challenges and Call for Action" submitted to World Journal of Diabetes.

Please find below a point-by-point reply to the comments raised by the Journal editors and by the 2 reviewers. We hope our responses address satisfactorily the mentioned concerns and we would be very glad to clarify any further issues.

We thank you and the reviewers for your time and your precious input which has helped further enhance the quality of the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Mona Nasrallah M.D

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (High priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: It is an article that must be read with special attention. The paper is very well documented and the authors have done a great job.

REPLY: We thank the reviewer for the time put in, and for the positive comments. The English of the paper was reviewed by a native English-speaking professional, director of the Writing Center of the American University of Beirut, and the language edited accordingly.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: minor revise

REPLY: Thank you. We have revised the manuscript for edits. The English of the paper was reviewed by a native English-speaking professional, director of the Writing Center of the American University of Beirut, and the language polished accordingly.

4 LANGUAGE QUALITY

Please resolve all language issues in the manuscript based on the peer review report. Please be sure to have a native-English speaker edit the manuscript for grammar, sentence structure, word usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, format, and general readability, so that the manuscript's language will meet our direct publishing needs.

REPLY: Thank you. As mentioned to the reviewers, the manuscript was reviewed by a native-English speaking professional director of the Writing Center at the American University of Beirut, for the language issues raised in the above comment, and the manuscript edited accordingly with tracked changes.

5 ABBREVIATIONS

In general, do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. Certain commonly used abbreviations, such as DNA, RNA, HIV, LD50, PCR, HBV, ECG, WBC, RBC, CT, ESR, CSF, IgG, ELISA, PBS, ATP, EDTA, and mAb, do not need to be defined and can be used directly. Now we list the abbreviations rules as follows.

(1) Title: Please spell out any abbreviation in the title. Abbreviations are not permitted.

REPLY: The title was checked and contained no abbreviations.

(2) Running title: Please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words. Abbreviations are permitted.

REPLY: The running title was checked and contains 5 words.

(3) Abstract: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Abstract. Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori).

REPLY: The abstract was checked, and MENA was spelled fully as Middle East North Africa.

(4) Key words: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key words.

REPLY: Key words were checked, and MENA was spelled fully as Middle East North Africa.

(5) Core tip: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core tip. Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

REPLY: Core tip was checked, and MENA was spelled fully as Middle East North Africa, and T2D as Type 2 Diabetes.

(6) Main Text: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text. Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

REPLY: All abbreviations in the Main Text were reviewed and adjusted in the text with Tracked Changes to conform with the above.

(7) Article Highlights: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Article Highlights. Examples: Example 1: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Example 2: Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori)

REPLY: Since our paper is a review, no Article Highlight section was formulated.

(8) Figures: Please verify the abbreviations used in figures and define them (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend or table; for example, BMI: Body mass index; CT: Computed tomography.

REPLY: All abbreviations in the figures were spelled out accordingly.

(9) Tables: Please verify the abbreviations used in tables and define them (separated by semicolons) at the end of the figure legend or table; for example, BMI: Body mass index; CT: Computed tomography.

REPLY: Similarly, all abbreviations in the tables were spelled out accordingly.

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor: 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a review of the epidemiology of type 2 diabetes in the middle east and north africa region. The topic is within the scope of the WJD. (1) Classification: Grade B and Grade A; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The paper is very well documented and the authors have done a great job. However, it must be read with special attention,

and need minor revision; and (3) Format: There are 5 tables and 5 figures. (4) References: A total of 143 references are cited, including 38 references published in the last 3 years; (5) Self-cited references: There are 2 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations that are closely related to the topic of the manuscript, and remove other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; and (6) References recommend: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by peer reviewer(s), especially the references published by the peer reviewer(s) themselves. If the authors found the peer reviewer(s) request the authors to cite improper references published by themselves, please send the peer reviewer's ID number to the editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

REPLY: We thank the science editor for the time put in and the positive comments. We checked and our self-cited references are 2 out of 143, which is within the accept rate. No additional references were suggested by the reviewers.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B and Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJD. 5 Issues raised: (1) The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words;

REPLY: We have shortened the title to 16 words, while keeping its relevance to the core of the paper.

(4) The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions;

REPLY: We apologize for this overlook. An 'Author Contributions' section was added.

(2) The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

REPLY: Thank you. We have provided all figures in a Power Point file which can be processed by the editor.

(3) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

REPLY: Thank you. We have reviewed all references and added the PMID and DOI where missing, and when available. However, not all references have DOI and PMID (please see below). All authors in the references have been listed. Going through the reference analyzer, we have received the message that some PMID and DOI are missing listed below. However, these were manually reviewed

Incorrected DOI: 5, 29, 38, 46, 49, 65, 78, 83, 113, 138, 144

Missing DOI/PMID: 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 26, 31, 35, 43, 47, 52, 66, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 90, 99, 110, 113, 123, 125, 127, 129, 130, 131, 133, 143

and (4) Please obtain permission for the use of picture(s). If an author of a submission is re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published; and correctly indicating the reference source and copyrights. For example, “Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation: Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. World J Gastroenterol 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc[6]”. And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable.

REPLY: All figures in the manuscript are original, created by the authors.

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

(2) Company editor-in-chief: I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Diabetes, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office’s comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.

REPLY: We thank the Science editor and the editor-in-chief for their time and are delighted at the conditional acceptance.