

October 18, 2022

Dear Editors:

My colleagues and I are very pleased to resubmit the manuscript entitled "Baseline moderate-range albuminuria is associated with protection against severe coronavirus disease 19 pneumonia" for consideration by the World Journal of Diabetes. We are grateful for your helpful reviews and comments, which indeed led to clarifications and additions that have improved the manuscript. We are hereby presenting the revisions, hopefully making the article ready for acceptance.

We feel that this manuscript adds valuable information to the evolving literature of risk factors for severe COVID-19 pneumonia in diabetic patients, providing additional unique information about the protective association of moderate-range albuminuria in diabetic patients with CKD I-II. We hypothesize that this counterintuitive association can represent intact interferon signaling that on the one hand may lead to harmful proteinuria and on the other hand can serve as a protective cytokine that has the potential to mitigate COVID-19 infection and complications. We would be pleased if World Journal of Diabetes would favorably consider our manuscript for publication.

The following is a detailed inventory of the requirements and our responses (in **bold**):

- Why the authors stated heart failure as separated from CVD.
 - **We thank the reviewer for this comment, as CVD does indeed include heart failure; therefore, we deleted this duplication.**
- In the methodology section, the authors should mention the date and the number of the ethical approval certificate.
 - **We added this in the methods, as requested. The approval and informed consent documents have been provided.**
- In the subheading statistical analysis, the author should remove the statement "Statistical methods were approved by and analyses were performed and reviewed by a statistician at the Galilee Medical Center."
 - **It has been removed.**
- I could not find any information on race of cohort members.
 - **The race of the participants was added to Tables 1, 2, and 3.**
- The authors should include the small sample size use in this study as one of the limitations.
 - **We added this limitation to the discussion.**
- Maybe one of the serious concerns in this manuscript is the very small sample sized used I think it should be increased.
 - **We agree that a larger sample size is desirable. Since we recruited all patients who met the inclusion criteria within the relevant time periods,**

we could not increase the sample size. Of note, the significance of albuminuria is even more impressive given the small sample.

- Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.
 - **English editing was performed by Ossie Sharon, a native English speaker. A certificate will be provided, as requested.**
- Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.
 - **Done; separate file labeled "79234-Figure.pptx" will be provided**
- Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content.
 - **Done; separate file labeled "79234-Tables.docx" will be provided**
- Before final acceptance, when revising the manuscript, the author must supplement and improve the highlights of the latest cutting-edge research results, thereby further improving the content of the manuscript. To this end, authors are advised to apply a new tool, the Reference Citation Analysis (RCA). RCA is an artificial intelligence technology-based open multidisciplinary citation analysis database. In it, upon obtaining search results from the keywords entered by the author, "Impact Index Per Article" under "Ranked by" should be selected to find the latest highlight articles, which can then be used to further improve an article under preparation/peer-review/revision. Please visit our RCA database for more information at: <https://www.referencecitationanalysis.com/>.
 - **We did not find any other relevant references in the RCA database using our keywords.**
- Guidelines for revising the content: Please download the guidelines for Original articles, Review articles, or Case Report articles for your specific manuscript type (Observational Study) at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291>. Please further revise the content your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.
 - **Content was reviewed per the guidelines**
- Format for Manuscript Revision: Please update the format of your manuscript according to the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision and the

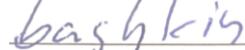
Format for Manuscript Revision. Please visit <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/291> for the article type-specific guidelines and formatting examples.

- **Formatting was reviewed per the directions.**
- Requirements for Article Highlights: If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the “Article Highlights” section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the “Article Highlights” can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.
 - **An “Article Highlights” section was added accordingly.**
- Common issues in revised manuscript. Please click and download the [List of common issues in revised manuscripts by authors and comments](#) (PDF), and revise the manuscript accordingly.
 - **The manuscript was reviewed and revised accordingly.**
- Please revise the references according to the [Format for References Guidelines](#), and be sure to edit the reference using the reference auto-analyser.
 - **References are used and formatted per guidelines.**
- Requirements for Figures: Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “79234-Figures.pptx” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is ‘original’, the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT):
Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.
 - **A decomposable copyrighted figure will be provided in a designated file.**
- Requirements for Tables: Please provide decomposable Tables (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single Word file, and submit as “79234-Tables.docx” on the system.
 - **Decomposable tables will be provided in a designated file.**

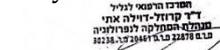
With many thanks for your kind consideration and best regards.

Sincerely,

Amir Bashkin, MD


Director of the Diabetes, Endocrinology,
and Metabolism Unit
Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya, Israel
Azrieli Faculty of Medicine
Bar Ilan University, Zefat, Israel

Etty Kruzel-Davila, MD


Director of the Nephrology Department
Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya, Israel
Azrieli Faculty of Medicine
Bar Ilan University, Zefat, Israel