

Athens, 12 May 2021

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you for accepting our manuscript (NO.: 66042, Review) entitled "*HELICOBACTER PYLORI, GASTRIC MICROBIOTA AND GASTRIC CANCER RELATIONSHIP: UNROLLING THE TANGLE*" for publication after minor revision. We have now carefully reviewed your comments and point-by-point answers are provided. Some issues, such as self-references percentage and title length, already met the prerequisites of your Journal, despite Reviewer's comments, as you can realize below. We modified our manuscript accordingly and expect for your final acceptance for publication. Thank you for your positive and thoughtful comments.

Sincerely yours,

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Point by point answers:

1) The manuscript exists some spelling mistakes such as "fyla" in key words, and some unsuitable typeface formats.

"Fyla" changed to "Phyla" and a revised check to typeface formats of the whole manuscript was performed thoroughly.

2) The data in Table 2 should be applied by statistical analysis.

Statistical analysis for the data in Table 2 has now been applied. In particular, we performed a random effect model to calculate pooled percentages and the relative 95%

confidence intervals of microbiota subpopulations among Hp positive and negative subgroups, based on the collected data.

3) Language quality

A native-English speaker edited the manuscript for grammar, sentence structure, word usage, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, format, and general readability, so that the manuscript's language will meet BPG direct publishing needs.

4) Self-cited references: There are 15 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%.

According to our revisions, we found only eleven (11) self-references as follows: (Refs 5, 8, 10, 19, 20, 21, 44, 64, 66, 73, 113. Totally, there are eleven (11) self-references, marginally less than 10% of the total 116, thus complying with the BPG requirements.

5) The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words;

-The title "HELICOBACTER PYLORI, GASTRIC MICROBIOTA AND GASTRIC CANCER RELATIONSHIP: UNROLLING THE TANGLE" contains eleven (11) words meeting the necessary criteria of less than 18 words title.

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

The aforementioned section added in the 2nd page of the manuscript.

7) 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; *All figures are original. A PowerPoint file is now available in the revised submission.*

8) 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.

Available PMID and DOI added in all references including all of the listed authors.

9) Please obtain permission for the use of picture(s).

All of the pictures are original performed by the authors uniquely for this manuscript No:66042, and no other permission is necessary.