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Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 20th 2017

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 34473-edited.doc).

Title: Regional differences in genetic susceptibility to NAFLD in two distinct Indian ethnicities

Authors: Govardhan Bale, Urmila Steffie Avanthi, Vishnubhotla Venkata Ravi Kanth, Padaki Nagaraja Rao, Mithun Sharma, Sasikala Mitnala, Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Hepatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 34473

We thank all the reviewers for their comments on the manuscript. The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reviewer 1:

Comment: This paper summarize the association of variants in PNPLA3 (rs2281135) and TM6SF2 (rs58542926) genes with ultrasound detected Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. This paper deserves to be accepted.

Response: We thank the reviewer for his comment.

Reviewer 2:

Comment: Introduction: Please, define clearly both ethnicities (in which region do they live? Or any other remarkable characteristic)

Response: A paragraph has been added about the ethnicities in the introduction

Comment: Material and methods: Please, provide the approval number provided by the ethical committee to perform the study.

Response: We have included the number as suggested by the reviewer in Materials and Methods.





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Comment: Results and discussion: Is there any relation with sex?

Response: No, there was no relation with sex

Comment: Please, discuss about the weak and strong parts of the study (could sex be a confounder and so on)

Response: A paragraph has been added as suggested.

Comment: Tables: Please, combine tables 1 and 4 into a unique table to avoid the repetition of data.

Response: Table 1 is overall general characteristics of the study group differentiated based on Ethnicity. However, Table 4 is comparison of the clinical characteristics within the ethnicities. Both the analyses are different and therefore have to be retained.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Hepatology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vishnubhotla Venkata Ravi Kanth'.

Vishnubhotla Venkata Ravi Kanth,

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