January 28, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8439-review.doc)

Title: Elevated Blood Pressure: Our Family's Fault? The Genetics of Essential Hypertension

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Cardiology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 8439

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers. Tracking was used so that the edits can be easily visualized.

1. The format has been updated for the journal.

2. Reviewer #1 requested no revisions and thought the paper was acceptable for publication. The following revisions have been made according to the suggestions of reviewer #2.
    - **a. Please include gene names as well as their function in the tables.**
        - i. The gene names are used in accordance with HUGO and the scientific literature.
        - ii. Gene functions were included as they relate to essential hypertension in Table 2a.
        - iii. Genes with unknown or undetermined functions were placed in Table 2b.
    - **b. Please analyze/ summarize the major signaling pathways that the 112 genes participate in such as vascular constriction and relaxation, inflammation pathways. These signaling pathways may drive an increase in blood pressure.**
        - i. The typo of 112 genes was corrected to 130 genes in the current draft.
        - ii. The major signaling pathways of the 130 genes were identified as they related to essential hypertension (EH). Table 2 was split into two sections. Table 2a identifies gene functions as they are related to essential hypertension (EH). Table 2b contains unique information regarding the genes as well as genes with unknown or undetermined functions with relation to EH. in Table 2a. If their signaling pathways were not related to EH, then the genes were identified in a separate section in Table 2b.
    - **c. How do epigenetic changes alter these pathways?**
        - i. The issue regarding how epigenetic factors affect these pathways was addressed in the discussion. We elaborated on the fact that there was no major overlap found between epigenetic factors with known genes.
    - **d. Please point out how these studies may affect personalized medicine with respect to hypertension in the future?**
        - i. This was already addressed in the concluding paragraph and abstract, thus no changes were made.

3. References were corrected and tables were placed in the appropriate section.

4. The comments section was written with enough detail for publication.

5. Other minor corrections were addressed with tracking.

We hope that you now find this article acceptable for publication. If published, all tables and figures can be published in black and white. This article is not under review by any other journal. Thank you again for evaluating our invited review for the *World Journal of Cardiology*.

Sincerely Yours,

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