

**To:**

Fang-Fang Ji (The Editor)  
World Journal of Cardiology

**Subject:**

Response Letter

**From:**

PhD. Laura E Boero  
School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry  
University of Buenos Aires

Dear Dr. Fang-Fang Ji,

Please find below our responses to all the comments made by the external reviewers regarding our manuscript entitled “Markers of inflammation and cardiovascular disease in recently diagnosed patients with celiac disease”.

Changes made in the manuscript were highlighted in red.

Thanking in advance for your attention, sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura E Boero', is centered below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.**Reviewer N°3646970 Comments:****1. Minor language polishing**

Based on the recommendation made by the reviewer, the language was corrected along the whole manuscript.

## Reviewer N° 35743 Comments:

1. I presume that the patients with CD were on a normal diet being only recently diagnosed. The authors should make this explicit. It would be interesting to repeat the exercise in those on GFD to see if the profile is favorably changed.

Following the reviewer's comment, the phrase "*Patients were not treated and they had not still started a GFD*" was included in the section Materials and Methods, Subjects.

It is noteworthy that, given the lack of information in the bibliography, this study was designed with the aim of exploring novel risk factors and biomarkers of cardiovascular disease, including inflammatory markers, in CD patients in comparison to sex, age and body mass index (BMI)-matched healthy controls. Once, different alterations were detected in this particular population, a longitudinal study was designed with the purpose of evaluating a group of newly diagnosed CD patients before and after six months and one year of GFD. This study is now being conducted in our laboratory in collaboration with the Service of Gastroenterology of Buenos Aires Italian Hospital

2. The discussion ends rather abruptly. I feel that a final paragraph is required to summarize the importance of what was found and what new information the study adds to the view that CD patients are at increased risk of developing CVD.

We agree with the reviewer and so we added the following paragraph at the end of the discussion, which summarizes the main findings of the present study.

*"In the present study, newly diagnosed CD patients, who were not following a GFD, presented higher insulin levels, HOMA-IR index, apo B/apo A-I ratio and hsCRP concentration, as well as lower QUICKI index, HDL-C and apo A-I levels in comparison with sex and aged-matched healthy controls".*

This paragraph is followed by the final conclusion of the manuscript:

*“According to the results reported in the current study, untreated CD patients would present modifications in carbohydrate and lipoprotein metabolism and a pro-inflammatory status. Even though the magnitude of the alterations here described is not major, their presence and interaction through long periods of time in a chronic pathologic condition, as it is the case with CD, would constitute a high risk of developing atherosclerotic CVD”.*

3. [What is the significance of similar findings in the 2 groups of CD patients?](#)

Likely, in both groups, the severity of duodenal lesion would not be a determining factor in the metabolic alterations nor in the increase of hsCRP observed in this study. This paragraph was added at the beginning of the Discussion section.

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

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Dear Dr. Fang-Fang Ji,

Based on the recommendations of the chief editor a “Limitations” section and some references were included in the manuscript “Markers of inflammation and cardiovascular disease in recently diagnosed patients with celiac disease”. Changes made in the manuscript were highlighted in red.

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