

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for your assessment and conditional acceptance of our invited manuscript. We are pleased that your team found the review to be within the scope of the *World Journal of Transplantation*, and well-argued in terms of the development of the topic.

All of the comments and suggestions were taken into consideration and changes were reflected accordingly onto the manuscript (see tracked file). Kindly refer to the following for the response to individual comments:

**Reviewer 1:**

- Comment 1: *...difficult to read due to the large number of words linked together... should be rewritten with clear separation of terms and phrases.*
  - We have rewritten the manuscript so as to increase ease for the reader.
  - Specifically:
    - We now refer to 'donor-specific cell-free DNA' in a variety of ways, including: circulating free donor DNA, donor DNA fragments, biomarker and assay,
    - We now refer to 'cell-free DNA' in a variety of ways, including: unencapsulated DNA, circulating free DNA and fragments of DNA.
    - We have removed all of the following abbreviations or terms: cfDNA, dscfDNA, tumour-specific cell-free DNA, tscfDNA, foetal-specific cell-free DNA, fscfDNA and S/L-Frag.
  
- Comment 2: *...rewrite the part referring to tumor, making it shorter and giving it to the importance of the article which is the role of free circulating DNA in transplantation in general and in liver in particular.*
  - We have rewritten this the second paragraph in the 'Background' section, to place more importance upon the main topic of the article, as suggested.
    - Specifically:

- We have shortened the section and removed a reference exploring cell-free DNA in the oncology setting.
- We have removed the sentences and reference exploring cell-free DNA in rheumatological patients.
- As such, the three paragraphs in this 'Background' section have been reduced down to two.

**Science editor:**

- Comment 3: *...difficult to read due to the large number of words linked together, please check across and revise them. The role of free circulating DNA in transplantation in general and in liver in particular should be rewritten.*
  - These comments reiterate the issues raised by Reviewer 1 in Comments 1 and 2, which we have addressed as outlined above.
- Comment 4: *The "Author Contributions" section is missing.*
  - We have now completed this section.
- Comment 5: *The authors did not provide original pictures... Please prepare and arrange the figures... to ensure that all... portions can be reprocessed.*
  - We have now provided the original of our picture, which has been prepared using Powerpoint and submitted as "58666-Figure.ppt" on the system.
  - We have also provided our original table, which has been prepared using Word and submitted as "58666-Table.docx" on the system.
- Comment 6: *Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references.*
  - We have changed our citations and references to the 'World J Gastroenterology' style in Endpoint X9.

**Editorial office director:**

- Comment 7: *Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s).*
  - Dr Tess McClure is supported by the University of Melbourne in the form of a scholarship for her postgraduate research into precision medicine in liver transplantation. We have attached a copy of this documentation.
  - No other grant funding or funding agency have supported this manuscript.
  
- Comment 8: *The author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author's name, with no spaces.*
  - We have changed our citations and references to the 'World J Gastroenterology' style in Endpoint X9.

We hope that you find the above informative and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

T McClure et al.