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JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 32847

Title: Genetic polymorphisms of MAFK, encoding a small maf protein, are associated with susceptibility to ulcerative colitis in Japan

Journal Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor): Peter L Lakatos

Country: Hungary

Editorial Director: Jin-Lei Wang

Date sent for review: 2017-05-04

Date reviewed: 2017-05-04

ACADEMIC CONTENT EVALUATION	LANGUAGE QUALITY EVALUATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Genetic studies are much more advanced as of today than this, to small cohort size, only acceptable if authors provide a confirmatory independent cohort of at least the same size of the controls, would be nice to include also a disease control group, IBS? as a 2nd control group.

Answer: Thank you for your important comments. For these two months, we analyzed the *MAFK* genotypes of 52 more UC cases and 360 subjects who have an irregular bowel movement without abnormal lower endoscopic findings as a 2nd control. These data were added to our manuscript. I think, regarding as functional bowel disorders, further studies diagnosed according to the Roma IV criteria will be needed.

Please consider the suitability of our revised manuscript for publication in your journal. The correcting points were shown with red characters.