6TH January 2024

The Editor,

African Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,

First floor, Almohande seen tower, Faqous city,

Alsharqia Governorate, Egypt.

P.O. Box: 44519 Tel: +201147805292

Dear Sir,

AUTHOR RESPONSE LETTER

RE: REVIEWED MANUSCRIPT ID: AJGH-2312-1045

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript and facilitating its early publishing.

Our response to the recommendations from the reviewers are as tabulated below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| REVIEWERS | COMMENTS | RESPONSE |
| 1 (AM) | Check the uploaded file | Done |
| 2 (MS) | i- Revise the reference style according to journal roles and revise the year of publication | Done, marked in red ink |
|  | ii- Correct the references writing as the number in brackets in the manuscript | Done, marked in red ink |
|  | iii- Revise the figure numbers as there is a discrepancy between figure numbers and citations inside the manuscript. | Done, used Mendely app |
|  | iv- Subjects, materials, and methods need to be shorter, and some unnecessary data may be referred to as supplementary material | Done, some parts deleted and section shortened as can be viewed |
|  | v- The data collection, analysis, and statistical analysis parts should be shorter with fewer subtitles. | Done, some sentences/unnecessary data deleted. |
|  | vi- Check the uploaded file | Done |
| 3 (AA) | i- Please add the source of the virus infection and more Diagnostic methods for the virus to differentiate between recent and chronic, persistent infections. | Done, as can be viewed on pages 4-5 in introductory part of the manuscript and appendices at appendix section pages 38-39, marked with yellow ink |
| Editor comments to Author | 1- Please check the author names and affiliations included on your Title Page, mainly that the spelling of all authors' names is correct. They are cited in the order you wish them to appear in the final article. In addition, each author's affiliation details are correct. | Done, correct |
|  | 2- Please include a 'Structured Abstract': not more than 250 words, broken down into, i.e., Aims, Patients & Methods/Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusions. | Done, can be viewed at the section |
|  | 3- Please include up to 10 keywords in your revised manuscript (including the four keywords you selected as part of the submission process). | Done, included new keywords marked with yellow ink  |
|  | 4. Please amend the references as per the author's guidelines: | Done, marked with red ink |
|  | a. References should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order they occur in the text. | Done using Mendeley app |
|  | b. References should appear as a number, i.e., [1, 2] in the text. | Done |
|  | c. References should cite three authors et al.: It is our house style to list a maximum of six authors, and if there is more than this, three authors et al. | Done |
|  | 5. Please ensure all tables and boxes are titled and cited in the text. Three-line tables are preferred. | Done, blue ink used |
|  | 6. Please check the PDF file of your manuscript regarding plagiarism checking. | Done |
|  | 7. Please add the scale bar, annotations, magnifications, and program that generated these figures. Also, it is better to submit figures with high resolution and brightness. | Done |

Thank you.

Accept the assurances of our esteemed regards,

Your sincerely,

Dr Peter Onochie Elom

Corresponding Author