

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



October 24, 2013

Dear Editor:

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5415-review.doc).

**Title:** A concise, practical guide to diagnostic assessment for mast cell activation disease

**Author:** Lawrence B. Afrin, Gerhard J. Molderings

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Hematology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5415

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

- (1) Authors' contributions have been specified.
- (2) Key words: "Please define 'KIT' in KIT mutations." KIT is not an acronym. It is the name of the gene (or protein) for the transmembrane tyrosine kinase receptor that is the dominant mast cell regulatory element. KIT is the human cellular homolog of the feline sarcoma viral oncogene v-kit. According to <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/gene/KIT>, the official name of the KIT gene is "v-kit Hardy-Zuckerman 4 feline sarcoma viral oncogene homolog," but nobody would recognize KIT by that name. Everybody in the hematology/oncology and genetics fields understands the specific transmembrane tyrosine kinase receptor referred to by "KIT". We recommend retaining "KIT mutations" or "mutated KIT" as the keyword. Alternatively, an italicized lower-case "*c-kit*" can be used in place of "KIT".
- (3) We have written the requested "core tip."
- (4) Per your request, we unlinked all of the references from their corresponding endnotes. All of the references are now plain-text superscripted numbers, and all of the endnotes in the References section are now plain-text as well, without any use of Microsoft Word's endnote-management functionality.
- (5) All "strings of references" (e.g., "54,55,56,57,58") have been converted to the requested abbreviated format (e.g., "54-58").
- (6) Readability of Figure 1: previously we had used the "Word Art" feature of Microsoft Word to illustrate how the "umbrella" term of "Mast Cell Activation Disease" (MCAD) encompasses, or overarches, the various specific diseases now proposed (reference 23) to be various forms of MCAD. However, the Word Art feature may not have translated correctly from our computers to your computers, resulting in a garbled illustration. Therefore, we have replaced the Word Art-based illustration with an equivalent JPEG picture.
- (7) We have separated the figures and tables onto pages apart from the titles of those figures and tables. We also have defined all of the abbreviations appearing in the figures and tables.
- (8) We were somewhat confused by your instructions regarding our tables. We believe you were requesting that we reformat most of our tables as figures, and we have done so. As noted in your Instructions to Authors, we have relocated most of the text contained in the table legends and figure legends to the main text. Also, per your e-mailed instructions, we bold-faced the title of the one remaining table, and as per your Instructions to Authors, we removed all of the horizontal and vertical bordering lines from this one remaining table.

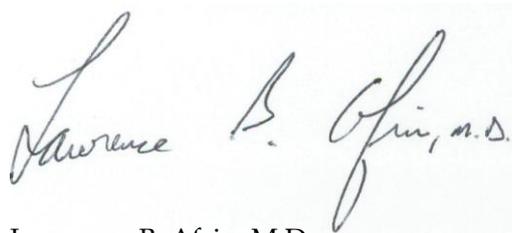
We believe we have made all of the changes you requested and that our paper now fully meets the formatting requirements specified in your Instructions to Authors. We hope you will now find our paper acceptable for publication. As all of the above-requested changes are formatting changes rather than content changes, it is our

hope that further peer review will not be necessary and that we can work directly with the copy editor regarding any further formatting revisions you may feel necessary prior to publication.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Hematology*.

On behalf of my co-author Dr. Molderings, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Lawrence B. Afrin, M.D." in a cursive script. The first name "Lawrence" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "B. Afrin, M.D." is written in a smaller, more compact hand.

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