

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 7, 2018



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 43024-Edited manuscript.doc).

Title: Hepatitis C virus core protein modulates several signaling pathways involved in hepatocellular carcinoma

Author: Shahab Mahmoudvand, Somayeh Shokri, Reza Taherkhani and Fatemeh Farshadpour

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 43024

Manuscript Type: Review

Manuscript source: Invited manuscript

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer.

We greatly appreciated the reviewers' comments. The point-to-point responses to comments were shown as follows:

(1) Reviewer 00070056

The review 'Hepatitis C virus core protein modulates several signaling pathways involved in hepatocellular carcinoma' by Shahab Mahmoudvand et al introduced the HCC associated signaling pathways including TGF- β , VEGF, WNT, COX-2 and PPAR α modulated by HCV in detail. The literature cited by the author is new and representative. The logic of manuscript is clear and reasonable. The illustrations are also very exquisite. This review is very useful to both clinicians and patients. I have no specific comments to

the authors, only some minor language polishing should be checked.

Response: Thank you very much for the positive comments. The manuscript was edited for proper English language, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. All changes and corrections are shown with Track Changes in the manuscript.

(2) Reviewer 00722239

This review covers the signaling pathways modulated by HCV core protein, such as TGF- β , VEGF, wnt/b-catenin, COX-2 and PPAR α . The documentation regarding each pathway is detailed enough. As these pathways play important roles in fibrosis, angiogenesis and tumorigenesis by HCV infection, this review has potential of many citations. Although the authors documented the potential of target therapy by inhibitors against these pathways, many HCV-infected patients nowadays underwent antiviral therapy using direct-acting antivirals (DAA) or interferon and many patients are induced sustained virologic response (SVR). Please add the review and/or discussion regarding tumorigenesis and pathways after SVR.

Response: Thank you very much for the positive comment. The mentioned issues were included in the manuscripts and highlighted with yellow color (Pages 7, 11 and 19).

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

Sincerely yours,



Fatemeh Farshadpour, Ph.D,
Persian Gulf Tropical Medicine Research Center
School of Medicine
Bushehr University of Medical Sciences 7514633341
Bushehr, Iran.
00989171712653
E-mail: f.farshadpour@bpums.ac.ir
f.farshadpour@yahoo.com