Author's response to reviews

Title: Celiac Disease Profile in the Mediterranean Area

Authors:

Francesca Tucci (franci.tucci@libero.it)
Luca Astarita (luca_astarita@hotmail.com)
Abdelhak Abkari (abkari111@yahoo.fr)
Mona Abu-Zekry (monazek@hotmail.com)
Thomas Attard (thomas.m.attard@gov.mt)
Mongi ben Hariz (mongi.benhariz@rns.tn)
José R Bilbao (joseramon.bilbao@ehu.es)
Ghazalia Boudraa (gboudraa@hotmail.com)
Samir Boukthir (aboukathir@yahoo.fr)
Stefano Costa (stefan.costa@gmail.com)
Veselinka Djurisic (loladjurisic@gmail.com)
Jean P Hugot (jean-pierre.hugot@rdb.ap-hop-paris.fr)
Iñaki Irastorza (inakixarles.irastorzaterradillos@osakidetza.net)
Aydan Kansu (aydankansu@gmail.com)
Sanja Kolacek (sanja.kolacek@gmail.com)
Giuseppe Magazzù (magazzug@unime.it)
Dušanka Mičetić-Turk (dusanka.turk13@gmail.com)
Zrinjka Misak (zrinjka.misak@gmail.com)
Eleftheria Roma (roma2el@otenet.gr)
Pasqualino Rossi (p.rossi@sanita.it)
Selma Terzic (terzic_selma@hotmail.com)
Virtut Velmishi (tutimodh@yahoo.com)
Carmela Arcidiaco (margherita@unina.it)
Luigi Greco (ydongre@unina.it)
Renata Auricchio (r.auricchio@unina.it)

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To the Editor-in-Chief:

We are pleased to submit to BMC Gastroenterology a paper produced by the extended MEDICEL Mediterranean Network for Celiac Disease.

We feel confident that the readers of BMC Gastroenterology will found attracting the picture of the 'Celiac Diagnostic resources' of 16 countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

More than 5 millions of cases are expected in the area in the next 10 years (Greco L, Timpone L, Abkari A, et al. The burden of celiac disease in the Mediterranean area World J Gastroenterol. 2011) and the issue of diagnostic
resources appear to have now the dimension of a relevant public health issue.
I am confident that the Editorial Office of BMC Gastroenterology will appreciate a
timely contribution to the issue of the new ESPGHAN diagnostic criteria for
Celiac Disease. Before considering this historical transformation, which is likely
to reduce the need for a biopsy in at least 50% of cases, it is crucial to have an
unbiased picture of the map of resources in the countries, where this change
may help to face the uncontrollable 'epidemics' of Celiac Disease.

This is a collaborative work, with one representative for each country, who
collected the data, provided a revision of the analysis, contributed to the writing
of the manuscript. Hence the reason for multiple authors.

The manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration
for publication elsewhere. The manuscript is approved by all Authors.

The European Laboratory for Food Induced Diseases, from Naples, Italy, is the
coordinating centre. FT, LA, RA and LG planned the study, developed the forms,
run the analysis and lead the writing of the manuscript. MBH, AK, SK, GM, ZM
made substantial contributions to conception and design and acquisition of data.
AA, MAZ, JRB, GB, SB, SC, VD, JPH, II, DMT, ER, ST, VV, CA have been
involved in drafting the manuscript and collecting data.

We are ready to accept the referees’ comments.

Sincerely,

Luigi Greco