Dear Editorial Committee of BMC Gastroenterology,

We would like to submit for consideration of publication our research article entitled

“Decreased PCSK9 expression in human Hepatocellular Carcinoma”. In this
study, we demonstrate that the expression of PCSK9, a key protein that regulates cholesterol metabolism, is decreased in Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in comparison to that in the adjacent liver tissue, by way of immunohistochemistry, mRNA levels, and serum levels in patients affected by HCC. These results did not correlate with tumor grade, tumour size nor the etiology of the liver disease in the context of which these tumors grew. These findings suggest that liver cancers harness cholesterol from the local environment in order to fuel growth. This is a novel and significant finding that has implications for the use of therapeutic agents in HCC, a cancer with a dismal prognosis as it is most often caught too late to provide curative treatment. In the recent literature, PCSK9-/- mice have been shown to be protected from metastases due to melanoma, which is in line with our findings regarding PCSK9.

We hope you will consider publishing our manuscript in BMC Gastroenterology, and look forward to your comments.

Thank you, and best regards,

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