Author's response to reviews

Title: Deficiency of eNOS exacerbates early-stage NAFLD pathogenesis by changing the fat distribution

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Ines Lopes de Sousa,

Thank you very much for your kind E-mail concerning our manuscript entitled, “Deficiency of eNOS exacerbates early-stage NAFLD pathogenesis by changing the fat distribution”

We have now revised the manuscript in line with the suggestions contained in your letter. The revised portions of the text have been underlined, and our responses are itemized separately.

We hope that you will find our revised manuscript acceptable for publication in *BMC Gastroenterology* and are looking forward to hearing your decision in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Atsushi Nakajima, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair Professor
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Thank you very much for your useful suggestions. Your suggestions have been addressed in the revised manuscript, which we feel has now been greatly improved as a result.

**Comment:** Thank you for revising your manuscript according to our editorial requests. We understand that you followed animal ethics guidelines during your study and thank you for including this statement in the manuscript. However, we would also like to know whether your study protocol received approval from an ethics committee, as this is not entirely clear from your ethics statement. Please confirm whether your study protocol was submitted to your institutional review board and received approval from the IRB. If so, please clearly state this in the manuscript.

**Response:** Thank you for your useful suggestion. According to your suggestion, the following sentence has been added to the Methods section (page 7, lines 21-22): “This study was conducted by the approval of the institutional review board at the Yokohama City University Medical School.” We feel has now been greatly improved as a result.