**COVERING LETTER IN RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL REVIEW OF MANUSCRIPT 17964**

1. **Line 5:** Both males and females REPLACED by **of** **Both genders**
2. **Line 22: “**Endocrine system Diseases” is a MeSH term and covers diseases resulting from abnormal level of available [hormones](https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/#/record/ui?name=HORMONES) including thyroid disorders.
3. **Line 61- 63**: study participants were categorized On the basis of measured levels of serum TSH and fT4, in primary hyperthyroid (serum TSH < 0.40 mIU/L and elevated fT4) and primary hypothyroid (serum TSH > 4.50 mIU/L and reduced fT4) groups.
4. **Line 120:** conclusion further elaborated as suggested.