

Dear Editor and reviewer:

Thank you very much for your email communications on Jul.18, 2023 regarding our manuscript “Single-cell and RNA sequencing analyses to construct a CDKN2A-related ceRNA network and identify lncRNA GAS5 as a prognostic indicator for hepatocellular carcinoma” (Manuscript NO.: 90123). We are grateful for the very pertinent and constructive comments and suggestions kindly offered by you and reviewer, and would like to specially address the points raised by them as follows:

Response to Reviewer 1 Comments:

**Point1:** HCC is a complex tumor with genetic, epigenetic, environmental and immune related factors responsible for its clinical expression, progression and response to therapy. Authors have evaluated CDKN2A related competitive endogenous RNAs (ceRNA) and tried to establish their network with other molecular pathways to establish prognostication of HCC. They have also looked upon possible molecular therapeutic targets of gene regulation. Their work is commendable.

Thank you for the recognition and praise. We revised and added some contents according to the requirements of the journal and retouched the language, which were all highlighted in yellow. Besides, we improved the clarity of our figures.