Dear Editor and reviewers,

The authors are very grateful to the Editor and the technical reviewer for their careful reviews of the manuscript entitled **"Exploring the prognostic potential of long noncoding RNA in colorectal cancer based on competing endogenous RNA networks" ID: 52258** and offering their insightful comments and suggestions to improve the quality of the paper. We carefully revised the paper according to the reviewers' comments.

The following responses have been prepared to address the Editor's and the reviewers' comments. The responses to the comments are marked as blue text. The tracking version of manuscript is uploaded again. Thank you!

Number ID 02491619: Excellent study about the prognostic potential of long noncoding RNA in colorectal cancer based on competing endogenous RNA networks. The study is very well designed and the results are interesting. Tables and figures are very good, and easy to follow. I have no specific comments, only some minor language polishing should be checked and revised. Congratulations!

Response: We are very grateful for your recognition of our study. For the minor language problem, we tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some language changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. We very much appreciate the Editors/Reviewers and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

The details were listed below:

Page 2 line 28: "To construct a prognostic related ceRNA network and lncRNA related signature based on risk score in CRC" corrected as "To construct a prognostic related ceRNA regulatory network and lncRNA related signature based on risk score in CRC."

Page 2 line 42: "in addition" corrected as "Furthermore"

Page 2 line 44: "furthermore"

Page 4 line 89: "Based on" corrected as "Through"

Page 5 line 128: "Only the mRNAs present in all three databases" corrected as "Only

Number ID 02855194: This is an interesting study. Many CRC patients are diagnosed at advanced stage disease, because of a shortage of useful biomarkers. Advanced stage disease with distant metastasis is the main reason for the poor therapeutic efficacy of surgery in CRC. Therefore, discovering highly effective diagnostic biomarkers and understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying CRC tumorigenesis are needed to significantly increase the survival rate of CRC patients. The regulatory networks of lncRNA, miRNA, mRNA, and ceRNA play significant roles in the development of gastric cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, and colorectal cancer. However, most of these generated ceRNA networks contain a large number of lncRNAs, and it is difficult to extract the lncRNAs closely related to survival prognosis. In this study, the RNA expression profiles were combined with patient clinical features to generate the ceRNA network. Based on the multivariate Cox regression model, a four-lncRNAs model based on the risk score of the ceRNA network was developed. Furthermore, the association between this model, clinical information, and survival prognosis was analyzed. Key lncRNAs in the ceRNA network were validated in clinical CRC tissues by qRT-PCR. This study provides a deep understanding of ceRNAs, and the four-lncRNA model could identify novel candidate biomarkers for CRC. Overall, the study is well designed and the manuscript is very well written. **Minor comments: 1. The manuscript requires a minor language editing. Some minor language polishing should be revised. 2. Methods are very clear. Sample size is big. 3. Results are excellent. The data in tables are interesting. Figures are informative. However, the words in some figures are very small, please check and provide the original figure for publication. 4. Discussion is good, and the limit of the study is also discussed. 5. References are updated.**

Response: Special thanks to you for your good comments. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in blue in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

1, The minor language editing has already listed in before;

2, Thank you for your recognition, for the original figure we have uploaded into system, we hope the original figures would help us to better understand this study.

Thank you again for your time and consideration!

Zhidong yang, hui kang