

Reviewer #1:

Dr. Spengler and his colleagues collected NAFLD and NASH gene expression data from GEO database and utilized STRGEO for meta-analysis. They also performed IPA to further uncover top disease function and networks and used [clue.io](https://clue.io) to identify potential therapeutic targets of NAFLD and NASH. Their work not only illustrated the gene expression profiles of both NAFLD and NASH, also demonstrated the common and unique disease pathogenesis pathway between NAFLD and NASH. More important, their work pointed out that AKT or PI3K pathway could be potential therapeutic targets for NALFD and NASH. Overall, it is a high-quality work and the manuscript was well-written. The review believe it is very interesting for our flied. Highly recommend for publication

We appreciate your feedback and positive comments.

Reviewer #2:

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Research on the mechanisms of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease is of clinical interest, given its high prevalence and significance. (1) It is recommended to add information in the article about the GEO data sets used for the analysis, including data on patients and methods of data acquisition (can be in the form of a table). (2) It is recommended to add a conclusion or conclusions on the results of the study. (3) It is recommended to expand the limitation section of the study, the fact that the study did not involve experimental or clinical evidence. (4) It is recommended to decipher all abbreviations at the first mention. (5) It is recommended to add a description to the figures, which will facilitate their interpretation.

- 1) Thank you for the suggestion. We provided the criteria for the studies and the tags done. We also provided the citation of the studies and an example of how one of them was tagged.
- 2) A conclusion was added that highlighted the most succinct points of the paper.
- 3) The limitation section was expanded accordingly.
- 4) Abbreviations were deciphered on first mention in the text as suggested.
- 5) The figure section is on a separate document and are accompanied with descriptions. The descriptions were expanded for clarity and to facilitate interpretation.