

May 10, 2017

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the revised manuscript in Word format (file name: 33977-revised.doc).

Title: Long non-coding RNAs in hepatocellular carcinoma: Potential roles and clinical implications

Author: Zhao-Shan Niu, Xiao-Jun Niu, Wen-Hong Wang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 33977

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions from you and the reviewers:

1. The format has been updated

- A copyright agreement was uploaded
- A copy of signed a Conflict-of-interest statement was uploaded
- An audio core tip was uploaded
- A language certificate was uploaded□

2. Revisions have been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

The changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted in red.

(1)Reviewer: 00051373

**Authors are the expertise in this field. I have no comment here.**

**Response: The authors greatly appreciate the reviewer's comment.**

(2)Reviewer: 02444864

The submitted manuscript: "Long non-coding RNAs in hepatocellular carcinoma: Potential roles and clinical implications" presents a comprehensive and well written review on long non-coding RNAs focusing on hepatocellular carcinoma. It provides detailed information on their role in

carcinogenesis and tumor behavior, their prognostic and diagnostic significance and their potential contribution in targeted therapy. There are only minor corrections to be done.

Response: The authors greatly appreciate the reviewer's comment.

#### Minor Comments

- ① Section H19, 2nd paragraph: the oncogenic role of H19 mediated by miR-675 is not well presented and should be partly reformulated. In addition, it has to be notified that aflatoxin B1 presents another mechanism related to the oncogenic function of H19. Some of the semicolons can be avoided. In the 3rd paragraph, the sentence "Intriguingly, recent data have indicated ....." needs a reference.

Response: Considering the reviewer's suggestion, we have partly reformulated the discussion regarding the oncogenic role of *H19* mediated by miR-675 in the revised manuscript, as follows: "Aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) presents another mechanism related to the oncogenic function of *H19*". Some of the semicolons have been changed to commas or periods in the revised manuscript. In addition, a reference has been added to the sentence "Intriguingly, recent data have indicated ....." in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.

- ② In the section **HOTTIP**, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: the word "Specifically" is irrelevant to the preceding sentence and should be deleted. References should be added. In the same paragraph, the referred **critical role of HOXA13 in hepatocarcinogenesis** should be more concrete. A more suitable reference is needed.

Response: In the section *HOTTIP*, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence, the word "Specifically" has been deleted. References have also been added. In the same paragraph, the referred to critical role of *HOXA13* in hepatocarcinogenesis has been more concretely presented, and a more suitable reference has been added.

- ③ In the section **HULC**, 1st paragraph: "through interaction with microRNA-372" instead of "by interaction". At the end of the 2nd paragraph, the correct expression is "no tumor **encapsulation**" while "or

HBV positive status" **should** be replaced by "**and.....**"

Response: In the section *HULC*, 1st paragraph, "by interaction" has been replaced with "through interaction with *miRNA-372*". At the end of the 2nd paragraph, the correct expression is "no tumor encapsulation", and "or HBV positive status" has been replaced by "and....."

④ The relevance of the References with the text should be carefully re-examined.

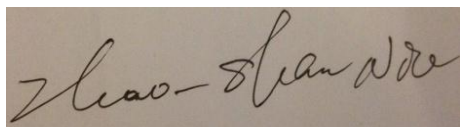
The relevance of the literature cited has been carefully re-examined.

The reviewer suggested minor language polishing, and this manuscript has been re-edited by American Journal Experts (AJE).

3. References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zhao-Shan Niu', on a light-colored background.

Zhao-Shan Niu, MD

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