

Specific Comments to Authors:

The manuscript entitled "New challenges in Hepatocellular carcinoma: a role for piRNAs?" focus on the current state of knowledge on HCC-related piRNAs and their potential clinical utility. Suggestions are as follows: (1) Regarding the length of piRNA, the authors wrote 24-35 nt in the manuscript, it is recommended that the authors refer to several authoritative literatures. (2) It is recommended that the authors add some of the current advances in HCC-related piRNAs identification methods and the challenges. (3) Some of the content in the manuscript seems to have formatting errors and needs to be adjusted. (4) There are some minor problems with the abbreviations of journal names.

We thank the Reviewer for the useful suggestions and comments. Below you will find the answers to all queries. All changes to the text are highlighted in yellow.

1- *Regarding the length of piRNA, the authors wrote 24-35 nt in the manuscript, it is recommended that the authors refer to several authoritative literatures.*

As requested, we have added two references indicating the main length range of piRNAs (24-35 nt) reported in the manuscript. The new references are [6,7].

2- *It is recommended that the authors add some of the current advances in HCC-related piRNAs identification methods and the challenges.*

We agree with this suggestion. Accordingly, we have briefly commented on the methods used to identify piRNAs and their challenges at the beginning of the Conclusions section.

3- *Some of the content in the manuscript seems to have formatting errors and needs to be adjusted.*

We have corrected all formatting errors in the manuscript as requested.

4- *There are some minor problems with the abbreviations of journal names.*

We have edited all journal names in the reference list using the online tool "Edit References by Auto-Analyser", as indicated in the Editor Instructions.

