

November 9, 2014

Dear Editor,

Thank you for inviting me (ID: 02860797) to write review paper for the special issue of *World Journal of Hepatology*. Now we submit the revised manuscript to be considered for publication. Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format.

**Title:** Immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: From basic research to clinical use

**Author:** Yupeng Hong, Ziduo Li, Pankaj Prasoon, Qi Zhang

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Hepatology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 13610

We revised the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments. Generally, the following changes have been made:

1. A figure was added to show the major immunological events, trying to make the paper more readable.
2. Three tables were added showing the relevant clinical trials on hepatocellular carcinoma.
3. Language was polished by an English-speaking native.
4. The text was revised according to the reviewers' comments.
5. A new author Pankaj Prasoon was added due to his great work for the revision.

As per your request, we submitted the manuscript with all changes highlighted. However, since we have made extensive changes, we sent another version with all changes accepted to your email box ([x.x.song@wjgnet.com](mailto:x.x.song@wjgnet.com)) for your convenience.

Thank you very much for your considering our manuscript for potential publication. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Qi Zhang and colleagues

**Answer to the reviewers**

# Reviewer 1

The paper Immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: From basic research to clinical use is very well-written, interesting and thorough review paper. Abstract is informative and well written. Writing in the MS is concise, systematic and thorough. The authors wrote an informative introduction, and good discussion sections. A table or two may be added to make the text easier to read and self-explanatory. Regarding the references, there are a lot of them (166). I would suggest performing spell checking, since there were few minor mistakes.

**Answer:** Thank you for this comment. We have added three tables showing the information of clinical trials in the revised version. A figure was also added to show the events involved in HCC immunotherapy. We have shortened the paper and delete 20 references. In addition, we have asked a English-speaking native to polish the language.

# Reviewer 2

An extensive review covering the basic science knowledge of HCC, yet the clinical applicability is almost missing. The current status of clinical trials should be included (major findings) and clearly highlighted. At least 40% of the revised paper should be clinical oriented. In addition, the paper is way too long, it should be significantly shortened and better focused. The topic is difficult to digest, therefore please include a Figure showing the major immunological events as well as a Table summarizing the completed or ongoing clinical trials and major outcomes if available

**Answer:** We appreciate the comments. In the revised manuscript, we added the clinical trials as per your request (Tables 1-3). We have shortened the manuscript. However, since the purpose of this article is to provide a comprehensive understanding of immunotherapy on HCC, we have to contain the important aspects regarding this topic. To make the paper more readable and as per your suggestion, we added a figure showing the major immunological events.

Thanks again for the reviewers' helpful comments