ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 32702
Title: Tumor Biopsy and Patient Enrollment in Clinical Trials for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma.
Reviewer’s code: 03538668
Reviewer’s country: Greece
Science editor: Yuan Qi
Date sent for review: 2017-01-22 13:14
Date reviewed: 2017-02-02 18:03

CLASSIFICATION
[ Y] Grade A: Excellent
[ ] Grade B: Very good
[ ] Grade C: Good
[ ] Grade D: Fair
[ ] Grade E: Poor

LANGUAGE EVALUATION
[ Y] Grade A: Priority publishing
[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing
[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing
[ ] Grade D: Rejected

SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT
Google Search:
[ ] The same title
[ ] Duplicate publication
[ ] Plagiarism
BPG Search:
[ Y] No

CONCLUSION
[ Y] Accept
[ ] High priority for publication
[ ] Rejection
[ ] Minor revision
[ ] Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
In this letter to the editor by Rimassa et.al, the authors argue that it is important to use core needle biopsy samples from hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients not only for diagnostic purposes but also for deciphering tumor biology and enrolling them in clinical trials. It is a well-written manuscript expressing an interesting opinion which needs to be made known to the clinicians treating HCC patients so that more cancer centers implement such an approach. Ultimately, understanding the biology of the tumor, through biological assessment of biopsies, may lead to the discovery of novel biomarkers and more efficient therapeutics for HCC. Minor comments The authors should provide the full name of a gene when first mentioned i.e. AFP, MET, VEGF etc.
COMMENTS TO AUTHORS
Dear author,? Thank you for submitting your manuscript for revision The most remarkable points of this manuscript are the covering of?a great area of lack of knowledge in advanced HCC?with molecular pathological information and a predetermined circuit of well designed clinical trials as well as?that it gathers so many leading research centres in HCC treatment.? It should also be noted that its?greatest novelty lies in?understanding that the current non invasive diagnose misses the chance of obtaining specimens for molecular studies in many cases, whilst?focusing in this subgroup would make an increase in this research field posible, somethin

i.e.?bundles with the hospital characteristics required to?study these patients,?what specific centres
are suggested for diverting clinical cases, samples, sample obtention protocols as well as their integral manipulation, etc. Finally, regarding readability, it has a clear and concise approach and its information is easily exposed to the reader. I have thoroughly enjoyed reviewing your article and in my opinion it could greatly benefit from adding some of the points previously named. Yours sincerely,