Comments to the Authors,

There are large number studies has reported that miR-137 acted as a [tumor suppressor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tumor_suppressor) and decreased in several cancer types including [colorectal cancer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorectal_cancer), [squamous cell carcinoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squamous_cell_carcinoma) and[melanoma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melanoma). In such background. The authors conducted comprehensive biological and clinical research on the role of miR-137 in HCC. The authors found miR-137 was significant decreased in HCC and *CDC42* was regulated by miR-137. In additional, the authors found miR-137 and CDC42 were significantly related to HCC proliferation and metastasis. Final, the independent role of CDC42 and another miR-137 target of AKT2 on HCC was investigated. The study was performed rigorously and the findings sound very interesting. However, to meet the high quality standard of Tumor Biology, the authors should address the following issues:

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1, The information would be lost when the authors choose relative expressions in Figure 1A and 1B. The absolute gene expression of miR-137 should be provided or attached as the supplementary so that the result can be quantitatively compared with other studies in other cancers.

2, The hyper-methylation of miRNA has been considered as one of most important mechanism to silence of the expression of miRNA as the Yinghua He etc. Neoplasia 13 (9), 841-853:IN23 showed. The methylation status of miR-137 should be investigated in HCC and some normal samples.

3, The conclusion would be highly unstable in Figure 2A, considering the low sample size. Please increase the sample size or collect some public microarray database to provide a more credit linear relationship.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

4, The authors focus on HuH7 and MHCC97L in the most experiments. What’s the

**Discretionary Revisions**

1, In the second and third paragraph of background, please provide the precise proportion for the LOH of 18q21 from previous literatures.