Dear Editor:

Thank you for your letter and the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript “Activation and Function of Receptor Tyrosine Kinases in Human Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinomas”. We have read the comments carefully and have made corrections accordingly.

The itemized responses to editor and the reviewer’s comments are listed below:

Editor Comments:

1. Please provide catalogue numbers for all cell lines obtained from commercial sources.
Answer: Corrections have been made, new line 109.

2. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.
Answer: Corrections have been made, new lines 397-398.

3. We note that tables 1 and 2 contain potentially identifiable information. It is BioMed Central policy
to not publish more than 2 indirect identifiers without explicit consent for publication from the participants, as per this paper (http://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1745-6215-11-9). Currently, the age and gender information in conjunction with other details, may compromise patient anonymity.
Please amend the tables to address this issue, by providing ages as age-ranges, or removing the age (or sex) information.
Answer: Corrections have been made in table 1 and table 2. Sex information have been removed.

4. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Please ensure that all figures, tables and additional/supplementary files are cited within the text.
Answer: The manuscript has been submitted according to the instructions.

Reviewer reports:
Peter Schraml (Reviewer 2):
Being quite relevant of the topic of their manuscript, the sentence in the Background part "The only genetic mutations related to RTKs in ccRCCs are the mutations of the VHL gene [14,15], whose loss of function lead to activation of VEGFR [16-20]."
should be replaced by The only molecular mechanism related to RTKs in ccRCCs is dysregulation of the pVHL/HIF axis [refs], which drives expression of VEGF and PDGFb and, hence, activation of their receptors VEGFR2 and PDGFRb (refs).
Answer: Corrections have been made, new line 83-86.

Thank you again for your consideration of our manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

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Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica,
Chinese Academy of Sciences.