Author’s response to reviews

Title: Zhenqing Recipe attenuates non-alcoholic fatty liver disease by regulating the SIK1/CRTC2 signaling in experimental diabetic rats

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Point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments:

Reviewer 1:
1. Line 51: T2DM usually shows hyperinsulinaemia, so the first statement that "T2DM is characterized by …. lack of insulin secretion" needs to be altered as type 2 diabetic patients may need insulin replacement only after many years due to pancreatic insufficiency.
   Response: Thank you for your critical comments and we totally agree with your suggestion. Accordingly, we have altered the first statement in the revised version (Page 2-3, Lines 51-52).

2. The authors have now usually described the HFD/STZ rats as a model of diabetes which is correct. However, lines 21-22 still refer to "the effect of ZQR on type 2 diabetes mellitus" and line 24 with "T2DM rats with NAFLD were developed by a high-fat diet (HFD) with low-dose streptozotocin (STZ) …" despite the model exhibiting some signs of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and not showing key signs of type 2 diabetes such as hyperinsulinaemia and obesity. The term T2DM is not appropriate for this model, and so this term should not be used, but the rats are clearly diabetic.
   Response: Thank you for your professional suggestion. Accordingly, we have corrected the inaccurate description of this diabetic rat model in the revised manuscript (Page 1, Lines 21-24).

3. Line 304: add "diabetic" after "HFD/STZ-induced".
   Response: We have added "diabetic" after "HFD/STZ-induced" in the revised manuscript (Page 14, Line 305).

4. Lines 398, 409, 421, 425, 427, 527: The authors have developed a diabetic rat model, not a T2DM rat model. Please correct.
   Response: Thank you for your professional suggestion. Accordingly, we have corrected the inaccurate expression of the diabetic rat model we established in the corresponding sections of the revised version (Page 18, Line 399; Page 19, Line 410 and 422; Page 20, Line 426 and 428; Page 24, Line 528).