Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 3 Date: 27 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Lindsay Brown

Reviewer's report:

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.

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.

Line 304: add "diabetic" after "HFD/STZ-induced".

Lines 398, 409, 421, 425, 427, 527: The authors have developed a diabetic rat model, not a T2DM rat model. Please correct.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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