Author's response to reviews

Title: Fucoidan present in brown algae induces apoptosis of human colon cancer cells

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Version: 4 Date: 15 August 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Shipley
Thank you for reviewing the manuscript referenced above. We have revised the manuscript in accordance with the reviewers’ recommendations. Detailed responses to each of the specific points raised by the reviewers are outlined below. All these changes have been highlighted in yellow throughout the text. For your information, the reviewers’ comments are typed in Arial font and our responses are typed in Comic Sans MS.

**Reviewer: Suguru Fukahori**
**Reviewer’s report:**
The manuscript is well revised and all parts I noted have almost been resolved. Therefore, I think the manuscript will be ready to be published in this journal.
→ Thank you for reviewing the manuscript.

**Reviewer: Nancy Turner**
**Reviewer’s report:**
<Major Compulsory>
1. The title, abstract and introduction give the impression that this work was only conducted in HT-29 cells. However, now there are data from HCT 116 cells, so these should be modified accordingly.
→ We have modified the title, abstract and background accordingly.

<Minor Essential>
1. The y-axes in Figure 2 should all be on the same scale to make it easier for the reader to compare the results. Provide the numeric results in panel G, as [they occur for panels E and F.
→ We have edited y-axes to be on the same scale in Figure 2. In addition, we have provided the numeric results in panel G in Figure 2.

2. In Figure 5, it doesn’t appear that the 5 µg/mL fucoidan level caused a significant increases relative to the control – please check the statistics.
→ We have corrected the statistics (DR5) in Figure 5. Thank you very much for finding the error.

We appreciate the thoughtful comments of the reviewers and hope that this manuscript will now be accepted for publication in BMC Gastroenterology. We look forward to hearing from you regarding its status.

Sincerely,

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