Author's response to reviews

Title: Immunomodulatory effect of water soluble extract separated from mycelium of Phellinus linteus on experimental atopic dermatitis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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The BioMed Central Editorial Team

Re: MS: 9985955336339504 Decision Letter

Dear Editor

Thank you for your help in reviewing the above manuscript, “Immunomodulatory effect of water soluble extract separated from mycelium of Phellinus linteus on experimental atopic dermatitis” by Ji Sun Hwang et al., for the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. By following reviewer’ comments we have carefully revised our manuscript.

Point-by-point responses to reviewer’ comments are also attached. We hope that this revised manuscript is now suitable for publication in the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Sincerely yours,
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A point-by-point response to reviewer’s comments

Reviewer: Naoki Inagaki

Comment #1
Strain name of mice “BALB/c J” cannot be found in the animal list of SLC. It should be simply “BALB/c” or exactly “BALB/cCrSlc.”

Response #1:
By following reviewer’s comment, we changed the strain name of mice “BALB/c J” to “BALB/cCrSlc” in Materials and Methods section of the revised manuscript.

Comment #2
The label for figure 1A “Cell viability (%))” should be “Viable cells (%).” It is strange that viability exceeds 100%. Viability should be calculated against total cells of each condition. (In the text, description should also be considered.)

Response #2:
According to reviewer’s comments, we changed “cell viability” to “viable cells” in Figure 1A as well as in the text.

To confirm the cytotoxicity of *P. linteus*, we performed WST-1 assay as well as trypan blue staining. In this revised manuscript, we corrected the “MTT assay” with “WST-1 assay” since we mislabeled it by mistake. The principle of these methods are same except for different substrates, tetrazolim salt WST-1 (WST-1 assay) and tetrazolim MTT (MTT assay), respectively. In WST-1 assay, the reduction of tetrazolim salts to colored formazan compounds by succinate-tetrazolim reductase, which exists in viable cells, provides a sensitive and accurate method to measure cell viability and proliferation. Thus high concentration means more viable cells or proliferation of cells.

In WST-1 assay as well as trypan blue staining, treatment of low concentration of *P. linteus* below 0.5 mg/ml was not toxic to cells and enhanced the number of viable cells during the 72h culture period due to cell proliferation. So this
result indicates that increased the viable cell number was not due to our systemic mistake. We described about this issue in result section of the revised manuscript.

**Comment #3**
In figure 2A, “Chloroform-zsoluble [0.28%]” appears. “z” should be deleted.

**Response #3:**
Thanks for the correction. We corrected the mistake in our figure 2A by deleting “z” accordingly