Reviewer's report

Title: Water soluble extract of Phellinus linteus modulates experimental atopic dermatitis

Version: 1 Date: 25 March 2012

Reviewer: Shang-tzen Chang

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors should provide the detail information for P. linteus in materials and methods section.
2. In this study, the PBS was used as vehicle for water extract, did the solution absorb easily (completely) by mouse skin?
3. Is it possible to provide the composition for your water extract? I think it is very important for the natural medicine research.
4. AS the author mentioned in discussion section ” Atopic dermatitis is a kind of inflammatory immune disorder which causes severe economical and social problem due to significantly increased incidence in developed countries. Atopic dermatitis (AD) is thought to be a typical Th2 type immune disorder which shows elevated serum IgE level and increment of Th2 type cytokines such as IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13. Th1 type response also plays key role in pathogenesis and maintenance of AD [25]. Clinical trials have been performed to modulate Th2 and Th1 type responses as well as chemokines levels “. Although the effects of P. linteus on IgE expression had not been reported, other cytokines modulated by the same material have been proved. Thus, I think the relationship between your IgE results with other cytokines (the data obtained by your study and compared with the same study by others) should be addressed.
5. Is there any side effect for your extract?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests