Author's response to reviews

Title: Ssanghwa-tang, an oriental herbal cocktail, exerts anti-melanogenic activity by suppression of the p38 MAPK and PKA signaling pathways in B16F10 cells

Authors:

Aeyung Kim (aykim71@kiom.re.kr)
Nam-Hui Yim (nhyim23@kiom.re.kr)
Minju Im (minjulim@kiom.re.kr)
Young Pil Jung (jyp007@kiom.re.kr)
Chun Liang (spring172@kiom.re.kr)
Won-Kyung Cho (wkcho@kiom.re.kr)
Jin Yeul Ma (jyma@kiom.re.kr)

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In response to the comments, we added and edited some sentences in the revised manuscript.

1) Confirmation of ethical approval for the use of ICR mice for the preparation of murine hepatocytes was described in the methods section of revised manuscript.

**Cell lines**

The murine melanoma B16F10 cell line was purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA) and maintained as a monolayer culture in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; Lonza, Walkersville, MD) supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS; GIBCO/Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), 100 units/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (Welgene, Korea) at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator. For the preparation of murine hepatocytes, 6-8 weeks old female ICR mouse were purchased from Nara Bio animal center (Nara Biotech, Korea), and housed under standard conditions at a temperature of 24 ± 1°C and humidity of 55 ± 5%. The experimental procedures were approved by Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine Care and Use Committee with a reference number 12-093 and carried out in accordance with the Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine Care Committee Guidelines. Hepatocytes were isolated using a perfusion system with some modification [13].

We greatly appreciate all of your helpful comments.

Sincerely yours,

Jin Yeul Ma

Center for Herbal Medicine Improvement Research, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine (KIOM), 483 Expo-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-811, Republic of Korea

Phone: +82-42-868-9466

Fax: +82-42-868-9573

E.mail: jyma@kiom.re.kr