Reviewer's report

**Title:** Regulation of podocalyxin expression in the kidney of streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats with Chinese herbs (Yishen capsule)

**Version: 2 Date:** 30 November 2012

**Reviewer:** Ping Li

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript by Fang et al demonstrates the effects of the Chinese herbs known as Yishen capsule on podocalyxin expression in the glomerulus of STZ induced diabetic rats. Expression of podocalyxin was gradually decreased in diabetic rats during the whole experimental period; treatment with Yishen capsule recovered the changes as well as reducing urinary protein excretion. Electron microscopy examination revealed that Yishen Capsule improved abnormality of podocyte foot processes in diabetic rats. However, there are still some issues to be clarified and discussed by authors.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

1. Representative pictures for renal histology among groups including treatment were not provided, please replenish them.
2. Semi-quantitative analysis of renal histological changes are necessary for exactly evaluating the improving effects of treatment, please add it.
3. Electron microscopy examination of glomerular basement membrane in diabetic rats were absent at week 4.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Labels for representing statistical significance on figures were missing.
2. Representative pictures for histology in figure 3 looks like PAS staining, not HE staining, please checks it carefully.
3. Representative pictures for histology in figure 3 and electron microscopy in figure 5 lacked original magnification or scale.

**Discretionary Revisions**

It looks better if authors could provide the analytical method and software of RT-PCR and immunofluorescence in the part of materials and methods.

**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