Reviewer's report

Title: Gelam honey attenuated radiation-induced cell death in human diploid fibroblasts by promoting cell cycle progression and inhibiting apoptosis

Version: 1 Date: 16 December 2013

Reviewer: Jael Quintero

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: No

Minor Essential Revisions:

1) Make sure the format of the references is the same in each one of them (following the chosen style)

2) It would be easier to analyze Figures 4-8 in only one scheme, in this way we can see the big picture of the behavior of the cell population in the presence or absence of the irradiation/Gelam honey treatment.

3) Legend s for figures: Figure 8 in bold. Figure 13 "Expression of Cyclin D1 protein in different treatment groups of HDFs" in bold.

4) Figures 10, 11, 12 and 13 could be in a same scheme...(same point 2).

5) Figure 1A, authors could homogenize the histograms axes (Y axe).

6) Figure 7, The standard deviation is too high. Could the author change the figure?

7) Figure 9, in order to homogenize the figures, please make a frame to this figure.

A major deficiency of this work is the lack of information or studies on the chemical composition of the Gelam honey and derby the active constituent responsible for inhibiting apoptosis.

The author may provide information in introduction about the mechanisms of action of some chemical compounds reported in the literature, in order to complement and / or lay the molecular basis of this activity. I think it would be very important to provide the mechanism of action for inhibiting apoptosis and the cell cycle progression.

Discretionary Revisions: No

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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