Author's response to reviews

Title: Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/smad2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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Version: 8 Date: 5 February 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
**Author's response to reviews**

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**Version:** 2  **Date:** 1 February 2014

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/smad2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Version: 7 Date: 6 December 2013

Reviewer: Azadeh Manayi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The source of plants and the plant parts which are used in the experiment are not mentioned in the text. Where are they prepared? From markets or the nature? If they prepared from nature they need identification numbers (Voucher numbers).

   This part has been changed in method part as the reviewer indicates.

2. Please notice the references for plants and aminophylline doses in human.

   References have been noticed in methods part as indicated.

3. The active metabolites of the plants and their effects on the NF-κB/TGF-β1/Smad2 pathway did not noticed in the discussion part. What are the probable active compounds of the plants?

   This is a very good question. Thank you. This study is a part of a State Key Program of National Natural Science of China (Grant No. 81130062). Actually, the experiments of probable active compounds of the plants are on processing now.

The main compounds used in the study are ginsenoside Rg1, ginsenoside Re, ginsenoside Rb1, ginsenoside Rd, icariin, peoniflorin, astragaloside IV, Schizandrol A, hesperidin, peimine, and their concerted applications. We believe
that it will figure out what make the prescriptions work when this study is done.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Although, the manuscript contains beneficial information, it suffers from grammatical, punctuation and dictation errors through the text. Besides, the meaning of some sentences in the text is obscure, which have to rewrite clearly, especially in the abstract and introduction parts.

   Changed as the reviewer indicates.

2. The scientific name of the plants and microorganisms have to be in Italic form. In the scientific name just the first part starts with capital letter not the second part. For example: Panax ginseng instead of Panax Ginseng.

   Changes made as indicated by the reviewer.

3. What is the term “Habius index” in the method part?

   The term has been changed into “body shape index”.

4. The texts in the diagrams are hardly legible. Please provide suitable text in the diagrams.

   Changes made as indicated by the reviewer.

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

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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 interests
Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/smad2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Version: 7  Date: 9 December 2013

Reviewer: Mahdi Vazirian

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1-In first sentence of background section in Abstract, provide the clinical areas that the efficacy of the formulation has been confirmed.

   Changes made as indicated by the reviewer.

2-In conclusion section it is better to use "reduce pulmonary inflammation" instead of "dilute pulmonary inflammation".

   Changed as the reviewer indicates.

3-Keywords must be shorter. Do not use semi-sentences for this section.

   Changed as the reviewer indicates.

4-We can use "In which" at the first of a sentence only if it is a question (Introduction section). Also, the expression "etc." is used after a comma mark, too. Please review your manuscript again for grammatical errors (especially for comma and other punctuation marks and some parts of the text; e.g. “The prescriptions the granules is...”, “euthanasia animals”, “No patent impairment”, “can low level”, etc.). Some places need space, too. For example in page 10, “IL-#were” and “group(p<0.01)”.  

   Revised as the reviewer indicates.
5. What is “Habius index”? I didn’t find it in scientific writings.

   It has been changed into “body shape index”.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. It seems that the topic “Discussion” is more suitable instead of “Discussions” for the section.

   However you can keep this word as long as it is according to journal guideline.

   Revised as the reviewer indicates.

2. Figures and captions are good but the qualities have dropped dramatically. It is recommended to provide them with a better quality.

   Revised as the reviewer indicates.

**Level of interest**: An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**: Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review**: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests**:

I declare that I have no competing interests