Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/smads2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 11 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Mahdi Vazirian

**Reviewer’s report:**

Review of the manuscript entitled "Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-κB/TGF-β1/smads2 signaling in rats with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease" by Ya Li, et al.

The manuscript includes interesting experimental results which may be beneficial for patients with COPD disease in the future. However, before final consideration, answering some questions about the experiment and edition of presented text should be considered. The minor revisions and a suggested change in the manuscript are listed below:

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. It seems that the manuscript includes some grammatical errors which should be checked and corrected before final consideration. There are also some misspellings in the text (e.g. aminophylline instead of aminophyline and NaCL which must be NaCl).

2. Please explain how the dosages are chosen for the experiment (For three herbal formulations and aminophylline).

3. Is there any reasonable clue for following the experiment for 32 weeks as the long term follow up?

4. What means "phanic" in the text?

5. According to figure captions we have no description for a, b, c, etc. in figure 2. Please provide a suitable caption.

6. I didn't notice any difference between your control and model groups (Although we know that control group are not exposed to fungi and the smoke but it is better to explain that in the text).

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. You are recommended to move some parts in discussion section to introduction (e.g. The effects of NF-κB/TGF-β/Smads pathways are as follows:)

**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