Reviewer’s report

Title: Long-term effect of three Tiao-Bu Fei-Shen therapies on NF-kappaB/TGF-beta1/sm2 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).
2. Please notice the references for plants and aminophylline doses in human.
3. The active metabolites of the plants and their effects on the NF-#B/TGF-#1/Smad2 pathway did not noticed in the discussion part. What are the probable active compounds of the plants?

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.
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.
3. What is the term “Habius index” in the method part?
4. The texts in the diagrams are hardly legible. Please provide suitable text in the diagrams.

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