Reviewer’s report

Title: Possible mechanism underlying the effect of Heshouwuyin, a tonifying kidney herb, on sperm quality of aging rats

Version: 6 Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: Diego Bucci

Reviewer’s report:

The article has been adjusted following the reviewers indications. I am still very perplexed with graphical presentation of the data and the indication of significant difference.

I find the graphical representation of the data really not sound. I suggested to use different superscripts letters to indicate difference between the various treatments, but I was misunderstood by the Authors: the way they used letters is not proper and, I think, does not help the reader. In fact, as they performed a one way ANOVA with post-hoc test, thus comparing all the different treatments and control against each other, they should indicate a letter for each column of the histogram, assigning the same letter to those treatments that do not differ and a diverse letter to those that differ significantly. This is the international convention. In conclusion I would recommend the publication of this article in its present form if you retain that these results could be clear for the reader.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.