Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of beta-sitosterol derived from Artemisia capillaris on the activated human hepatic stellate cells and dimethylnitrosamine-induced mouse liver fibrosis

Version: 2 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Tae Jin Kang

Reviewer's report:

Authors described that beta-sitosterol derived from Artemisia capillaris (AC) has anti-fibrotic activity in their article. Authors confirmed sitosterol decreased the mRNA and protein expression of collagen-1 and smooth muscle actin. They also showed sitosterol alleviated liver damage induced by the dimethylnitrosamine (DMN) in vivo model. It is an interesting research Experiments are properly performed, methods are appropriate and data are clearly presented, which are worth to be published in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. However, there are a few points of concern which need to be addressed in the manuscript.

1. There were grammatical errors, which will need to be addressed in the revision.
2. They should explain the reason why authors used dimethylnitrosamine to induce liver damage in discussion section.
3. While 40 mg/kg of #-sitosterol did not affect to the a-SMA mRNA expression level, it significantly decreased the protein expression. It would be better if authors describe the reason or opinion on details in discussion section.
4. Page 5, line 19; Affiliation of cell line provider (Dr. Scott Friedman) will need to be written.

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 interests.