Reviewer's report

Title: Huachansu injection (HCS) inhibits metastasis of pancreatic cancer in mice model of human tumor xenograft

Version: 1 Date: 13 December 2013

Reviewer: Zhan-Guo Gao

Reviewer's report:

Yin et al. studied the anti-metastatic effects of Huachansu on pancreatic cancer in a mouse model of human xenograft. The authors found that Huachansu had a significant inhibitory effect on tumor metastasis to liver via inhibiting the expression of MMP-2 and MMP-9.

While the results are interesting, I have a number of comments or suggestions to improve the manuscript, especially the Results section, before it is acceptable for publication.

1. Paragraph 1 of the Results section: statistical analyses are needed following the description of inhibition rate.

2. Page 7, lines 1-2 from bottom, and elsewhere throughout the manuscript: the authors listed the percentages without standard deviations or errors, and sample numbers. Also, the authors listed P values without mentioning statistical methods used.

3. Page 9, line 3, it should probably be P=0.038, not P<0.038?

4. The legends for figures are missing.

5. All figures seem blurry, a higher resolution is needed.

6. The link to the Additional files can be opened but it doesn’t show anything.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'