Author's response to reviews

Title: Ameliorating effect of microdoses of a potentized homeopathic drug, Arsenicum Album, on arsenic-induced toxicity in mice

Authors:

Palash Mallick (palash_mallick@yahoo.com)
Jayati Chakrabarti (jayati_c@rediffmail.com)
Prof Bibhas Guha (arkb@klyuniv.ernet.in)
Prof Anisur Rahman Khuda-Bukhsh (arkb@klyuniv.ernet.in)

Version: 4 Date: 18 Sep 2003

To
Ms Emma Veitch 12.07.03
Assistant Editor,
Biomedcentral, Middlesex House,
34-42 Cleveland,
London W1T 4LB
Sub: Submission of re-revised ms for publication in Journal of BMC Coml. & Alt. Medicine (ms ID - 4683865681587270)

Dear Ms Emma Veitch,

I am submitting herewith electronic version of our re-revised ms entitled "Ameliorating effect of microdoses of a potentized homeopathic drug. Arsenicum Album, on arsenic-induced toxicity in mice" by P. Mallick, et al for favor of publication in your esteemed journal, BMC Compl. & Alternative Medicine. We have again revised our paper in the light of suggestions made again by Dr. Wayne B Jonas.

We enclose a point by point answer to the queries made by the hon'ble reviewer and put our response and action in the following for your kind perusal.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
A.R. Khuda-Bukhsh

Dr.A.R. Khuda-Bukhsh, Ph.D.
Professor, Deptt. of Zoology,
University of Kalyani,
Kalyani-741235, W.B., India.
Email: arkb@klyuniv.ernet.in


1. There is no clear hypothesis............ The main null hypothesis that As+Dw is not equal to As+As 3C or As + As 200 has now been mentioned in Materials & Methods (statistical analysis).
2. If so, ......effect and its significance. Table 1 has now been included to satisfy this point.
3. Please calculate......apparently toxic. Yes, the total amount of alcohol orally administered to positive control mice has now been mentioned in Materials and Methods (alcohol control).
4. The discussion.....article? A number of changes have been made e.g "genes for house-keeping enzymes under question have been exemplified and the line "for which the normal metabolic functioning or certain genes responsible for regulation of certain enzyme systems become faulty"
has been deleted in the Discussion. Which genes and which proteins etc. are mentioned and what specific experiments are needed have already been there e.g. in the lines "Thus signal transduction pathways and different steps .......are some areas of future research that can prove to be rewarding ..." in Discussion 16 lines backward from Conclusion. How will this address the problem of arsenic intoxication has now been mentioned.

5. There is not a "huge".....West Bengal?.. In Discussion, the word 'huge" has now been replaced with "a considerable amount ". The word "spectacular" has also been deleted. A clinical trial in arsenic contaminated regions of West Bengal has now been recommended. (Conclusion)

6. Finally, I still.........main hypothesis. Yes, the graphs will be published in color. The mean, SEM and level of significance of the "t" test values of treated and control series have now been shown in the table 1.