Author's response to reviews

Title: Anticancer activity of extracts derived from the mature roots of Scutellaria baicalensis on human malignant brain tumor cells

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We thank the reviewer for his helpful comments and we hope the manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Reviewer Franky Chang

1. Fig 4B does not contain convincing morphological evidence of apoptosis.
Whether the cell death seen is due to apoptosis or necrosis does not change the results of the assay with respect to the point we are making - ie that there is substantial cell death in the tumor cell culture and not in the normal glia culture. Therefore we have changed the text to read "cell death" in place of "apoptosis".

2. Discussion (page 13): The authors discuss the efficacy of a Chinese herbal mixture....... The efficacy of PC-SPES was discussed in the Introduction (page 5), and we did include a sentence that this mixture was removed from the market due to concerns about contamination. We have additional added sentences to this paragraph regarding this mixture to emphasize the point.