Author's response to reviews

Title: Mistletoe lectin is not the only cytotoxic component in fermented preparations of Viscum album from white fir (Abies)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To:
Emma Parkin
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BMC-series journals

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Richterswil, 9th March 2007

Dear Ms. Parkin,

Thank you very much for your e-mail from 9th of February enclosing the decision letter concerning our manuscript entitled „Mistletoe lectin is not the only cytotoxic component in fermented preparations of Viscum album from white fir (Abies)“. We have substantially changed our manuscript, following the comments of the Reviewers (see below). The changes made in response to the concrete points raised by the Reviewers are highlighted in yellow in the revised version and are mentioned below indicating the corresponding page numbers of the revised version to facilitate identification. The general suggestion to revise the language style of the paper prompted us to extensive rewriting; these text alterations are not highlighted, in order to allow an easy localization of the changes made in response to the concrete points mentioned above. Please note that in the revised version we have replaced two acknowledgements by authorships and that we have avoided the commercial name of the product. We believe that the revised version of our manuscript is most suited for publication at the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

We are thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

A. Paula Simões-Wüst
Rebuttal to Reviewer #1

We have now removed the mention to the unpublished data concerning p53 (p. 10).

The Fig. 1 of the previous version has as well been removed and the corresponding description in the text markedly shortened.

Following the Reviewer’s suggestion, two Figures have now been added to the manuscript, in which the cell growth (%) is shown as a function of the concentration of the various Viscum album preparations (VAPs), for each of the four cell lines used to study each of the two cancer types (see p. 164 for figure legends). The text of the corresponding Results section was adapted to these new figures (p. 7 and 8).

We thank the Reviewer for calling our attention to the fact that the information concerning mistletoe lectin was rather scarce. In the revised version we have now specified that we have worked with pure mistletoe lectin I (MLI) and have added more information concerning its isolation (p. 5).

Due to technical limitations, it is not possible for us to test the effect of isolated Viscotoxin on the cell cultures at the moment. These experiments will be performed as soon as possible, since we completely agree with the Reviewer that they are crucial to unveil the mechanism of action of VAP-A. We do feel, however, that the information revealed by our manuscript in the revised form is of interest for other scientists/medical people working in this field and therefore believe that its publication should not await these additional data.

Rebuttal to Reviewer #2

We thank the Reviewer for his positive appreciation of the manuscript in general and we share his opinion that experiments with purified viscotoxin would further improve it. Due to technical limitations, however, it is not possible for us to test the effect of isolated Viscotoxin on the cell cultures at the moment; these experiments will, however, be performed as soon as possible.

All minor revisions have been performed (see Pages 3, 6 and 7). We thank the Reviewer for noticing these mistakes.

Concerning the quality of the written English, the revised version contains marked improvements. Several sentences have been re-written trying to make the text more understandable.