Author’s response to reviews

Title: Petiveria alliacea extracts uses multiple mechanisms to inhibit growth of human and mouse tumoral cells.

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Bogotá, September 30 2008

Dear Sirs

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

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Article Title: *Petiveria alliacea* extracts uses multiple mechanisms to inhibit growth of human and mouse tumoral cells.

We have revised the manuscript appropriately to the latest comments of the reviewers point by point as required. Please find next the detail explanations for each reviewer.

**Reviewer: LUCIA Cavallaro**

Minor Essential Revisions

1.- *Introduction*

*Reference 25 is MJ Ruffa.*

The Reference has been revised and corrected on the manuscript.

2.- *Methods*

*In vitro cytotoxicity (IC50).*

*The authors should make a revision of the methodologies utilized for the positive and negative controls evaluation. (i.e. F4 by MTT and vincristine and ethanol by Trypan blue)?*

Description of the methodology has been revised and clearly explained on the manuscript that the same biological assays have been done to fraction F4 and to positive and negative controls.

3- *Results*

3.1. *I suggest the inclusion of a table in replacement of figure 2 G*

*Cell Line F4 Vincristine IC50 (µg/ml)*

Figure 2G has been replaced for Table 1 in the manuscript. The table includes the IC50 for tumor cell lines and for vincristine.
3.2. - Figure 4.  
The authors must clarify that it is the S2 fraction used as positive control

S2 is a Petiveria alliacea fraction that induces membrane depolarization and has been clearly explained in the manuscript its used as a positive control.

4.- Discussion
The discussion section could to be one discussion based fundamentally over the results obtained in this manuscript, it would be of interest and relevance for the readers. I suggest one brief description of actions of Petiveria’s compounds reported previously

The discussion has been revised and shorten the section describing Petiveria’s compounds reported previously as suggested

**Reviewer: Adolf Nahrstedt**

**Reviewer’s report:**
there are still some deficiencies, which should be improved before printing:  
- paragraph: should read "ethnopharmacological".

The word “etnopharmacological “has been corrected at the manuscript to ethnopharmacological.

- Methods: should read "filtered".
The word filter has been replaced for filtered in the manuscript.

- Characterization:

- - should read "4-cyano-4-hydroxy cinnamic acid".

The word 4-cyano-4-hydroxy cinnamic acid has been corrected in the manuscript.

- - should read "senfoel" (not senfol); this is a name for a group of isothiocyanates.

Senfoel is the compound possible present in Petiveria fraction but does not correspond to senfoel. Senfoel canonical SMILES is: C(CN=C=S)N=C=S, molecular formula C₄H₅N₂S₂, and molecular weight 144.21g/mol (Pubchem CID 19388). Senfoel canonical SMILES is C=CCN=C=S, molecular formula C₄H₅NS, and molecular weight 99.15 g/mol (Pubchem CID 5971) and corresponds to allyl isothiocyanate. Therefore, we did not change the name of senfol to senfoel because senfoel is a different compound and is not present in the Petiveria fraction.

- Discussion:
- - 4. paragraph: should read "The types of compounds tentatively found in P. alliacea'e's...."
The sentence has been change as suggested.

- next sentence: should read "....and probably present in F4...."

The sentence has been revised as suggested.

We hope to have addressed all reviewers’ suggestions to your complete satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Susana Fiorentino. PhD