Reviewer's report

Title: Atrazine Induced Apoptosis of Splenocytes in BALB/C Mice

Version: 1 Date: 15 April 2011

Reviewer: Tai Guo

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions are needed.

“Atrazine Induced Apoptosis of Splenocytes in BALB/C Mice” by Zhang et al. was intended to investigate the apoptosis of splenocytes in mice exposed to ATR in order to explore possible immunotoxic mechanisms. The results are interesting. However, one major concern was that male and female mice were not studied separately. This is important because there are numerous reports suggesting the detrimental effects of ATR on endocrine and reproductive development.

Others:

In Abstract, please reword “Accidental overspray”; What are the histological changes?

In Background, please reword “simultaneous environmental pollution and produce contamination (P2)”; “it is not been reported (P4)”.

Figure 3: What is PI-PE? The results should differentiate early and late apoptosis.

Figure 5: It is unclear why there was no caspase 3 cleavage.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests