Author's response to reviews

Title: Real World Research: a Complementary Method to Establish the Effectiveness of Acupuncture

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To: BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

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Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled: “Real World Research: a Complementary Method to Establish the Effectiveness of Acupuncture”, which we wish to be considered for publication in your journal. Acupuncture is popular in many countries but its efficacy remains steeped in controversy. We summarized the current status of acupuncture randomized controlled trials, with an emphasis on identifying the existing problems that plagued clinical evaluation of acupuncture and strategies on how to minimize the problems. We highlighted the need for high-quality real world research to complement randomized controlled trials in assessing the effectiveness of acupuncture.

We believe that this paper could be of interest to the readers of BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine, because this is the first paper on discussing the feasibility of applying real world research in acupuncture assessment with some suggestions for study design. This manuscript has not been published in part or in whole nor is it being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Thanks very much for your attention to our manuscript. We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Hao Xu on behalf of all authors