Reviewer's report

Title: Ethanol extract of propolis protects macrophages from oxidized low density lipoprotein-induced apoptosis by inhibiting endoplasmic reticulum stress-C/EBP homologous protein pathway

Version: 3 Date: 28 April 2015

Reviewer: Yawei Xu

Reviewer's report:

Tian H et al tried to explore the protective effect of ethanol extract from propolis on ox-LDL induced macrophage apoptosis through ER-stress mediated pathway. I only have the following comments.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Authors should raise their scientific hypothesis in the end of introduction.
2. Do authors mean “4 degree” (Line 15, Page 7) and “37 degree” (Line 4, Page 8)?
3. Where were caspase-3 assay kit and TUNEL staining kit purchased from? (Page 7 and 8)
4. Where was CD36 antibody purchased from?
5. Authors should state why RAW264.7 cells treated with ox-LDL at 100 mg/L and for 24 h (Line 19-20, Page 10).
6. Why were RAW264.7 cells treated with EEP for 24 h?
7. Total PERK should be test by western blot (figure 4, 5).
8. Total eIF2α should be test by western blot (figure 4, 5).
9. The molecular weight of protein should be added on the right side of western blot in figures.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.