Author's response to reviews

Title: Modulation of Heat Shock Proteins and Apoptosis by Flueggea leucopyrus (Willd) decoction: possible mechanisms mediating cytotoxicity to three breast cancer phenotypes.

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Version: 2 Date: 8 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
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24/09/2014

Executive Editor,
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine,

Dear Sir,

Our manuscript titled ‘Modulation of Heat Shock Proteins and Apoptosis by Flueggea leucopyrus (Willd) decoction: possible mechanisms mediating cytotoxicity to three breast cancer phenotypes’ has been submitted for publication as a research article in your highly esteemed journal, BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

In view of the urgency of discovering natural agents that can target breast cancers based upon specific molecular subtypes, this article demonstrates the inhibitory effect of the decoction prepared from F. Leucopyrus (aerial parts) on the proliferation of specific phenotypes of breast cancer cells, via inhibition of Heat Shock Proteins and enhancement of apoptosis. Thus F. leucopyrus could be further exploited to develop cheaper and natural alternatives to existing drugs that would not only be useful for the treatment of breast cancer, but could also prevent disease relapse. F. leucopyrus can easily be cultivated without incurring much expenditure and, development of an anti-cancer agent from this plant would also be of economic benefit to breast cancer patients worldwide.

We declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered elsewhere. We also wish to confirm that there is no competing interest and the manuscript has been read and approved by all the named authors.

We feel these findings will be of interest to the readers of your journal and we hope you find our manuscript appropriate for publication and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Anuka Mendis
Changes made to the manuscript

1. Added title page at the front of the manuscript file.
2. Names, institutions, countries and email addresses of all authors, and the full postal address of the submitting author were included.
3. Revised manuscript with line and page numbers.