Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Ashwagandha Attenuates TNF-α- and LPS-Induced NF-κB Activation and Inflammatory Gene Expression in NRK-2E Cells

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 28 Aug 2015

**Reviewer:** Juan Alfaro

**Reviewer’s report:**

The manuscript describes anti-inflammatory properties of some botanicals measured by CCL2 and CCL5 gene expression in NRK-52E cells. The article is interesting, but some key questions have to be explained for its acceptance.

1. Title

    There is a mistake in the name of cells. Please, change NRK-2E by NRK-52E cells.

2. Results

    In Figure 3A, Ash (Ash/Ash) diminished significantly the expression of CCL5 regarding basal gene expression. In Figure 3B, Ash/Ash did not produce changes in NF-kB activation. As you determined in the paper…”NF-kB regulates CCL2 and CCL5 expression"…then, please try to explain why there was not change in NF-kB activation but it was observed a significant CCL5 downregulation with Ash treatment. Does it mean that Ash downregulates CCL5 by an independent NF-kB pathway?

    All of your work regarding anti-inflammatory capacity of botanicals is based in the expression of 2 genes, CCL2 and CCL5. I would like you present a graph with data about cell viability. Furthermore, have you determined in your model the effect of botanicals in important interleukins such as IL-1, IL-6 and IL-8?

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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