Author’s response to reviews

Title: Shuang-Huang-Lian prevents basophilic granulocyte activation to suppress Th2 immunity

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Prof. Kwon,

Thank you for your letter and for the comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Shuang-Huang-Lian prevents basophil activation to suppress Th2 immunity" (BCAM-D-17-01160). We thank you for the critical review to improve this manuscript. We have carefully studied all comments and have made essential explanation as follow. All changes to the manuscript were indicated in the text by highlighting (yellow area).

Technical Comments:

Ethics statement has been included in the Declarations. ARRIVE checklist included. Abstract and scope OK. Cover OK. Ethics OK, though they will need to include their statement in the Declarations. Treatment obtained commercially. Declarations OK. Needs ARRIVE checklist. I think the justification is probably OK.

Response: “Ethics approval and consent to participate” has been included in the Declarations (page 19, lines 374-377).
Reviewer reports:

Tetsuhiro Yoshino, M.D., Ph.D. (Reviewer 1): This is a well-written, interesting paper. I recommend authors to add some edition below.

#1 I believe it is better for you to move sentences about your motivation of experiments from the results section to methods section. For example, these sentences from line 216-9 can be moved into methods section. "Th1 cells regulate B cells to produce antigen-specific IgG2a and IgG2b, while Th2 cells induce an allergic inflammation by promoting IgE class switching [2-3]. To clarify the function of SHL on the Th1/Th2 phenotype, we first evaluated the effect of SHL on ST-specific serum antibody production."

Response: The sentences about our motivation of experiments have been moved from the results section to methods section (page 9, lines 135-139; page 10, lines 162-166 and 181-182; page 11, lines 183-184; page 12, 217-222 and 232; page 13, lines 233-234).

#2 I hope to have higher resolution figures, especially fig 3. I couldn't read any small words in the figure.

Response: All figures have been improved.

#3 I think that you need to review this journal's guideline of "availability of data and materials' section". Here, data doesn't mean your figures, but means RAW data.

Response: The raw data has been provided in the Supporting information (Tables S1-S3) and indicated in the revised manuscript (page 13, line 251; page 14, lines 259-260, 266, 272; page 15, lines 283, 292; page 16, lines 309-310, 312, 324; page 17, lines 325, 331, 335).

Parveen Bansal, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2):

#1 Authors have written Shuang-Huang-Lian (SHL) everywhere in the manuscript. The name of the basophil used should be its scientific name or its common name in English language.

Response: We used “basophilic granulocyte (BG)” instead of “basophil” in the revised manuscript.

2# The documents evidencing animal ethical committee approval should be attached.

Response: The documents evidencing animal ethical committee approval have been attached in Supporting information (attached files, pages 9-11).

3# Under the heading splenosyte culture line 158 the ELISA kits used should be mentioned accurately.
Response: The information for the ELISA kits was mentioned in the Method (page 7, lines 91-93; page 10, line 171).

4# The reaction mixture used for the basophil activation test should be mentioned in detail.
Response: The reaction mixture used for the basophil activation test has been mentioned in detail (page 11, lines 188-205).

5# Discussion should be rewritten with recent references.
Response: Discussion has been rewritten with recent references (pages 15-17, lines 297-335).

6# Rewrite conclusion.
Response: Conclusion has been rewritten (page 17, lines 338-343).

7# References should be corrected as per journal guidelines.
Response: The references have been corrected according to the guideline of BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Given that the references 17 and 18 are the Chinese papers without ISO Abbreviation, their journal name were provided in complete English name.

We hope the revised manuscript can be suitable for the publication.

Sincerely,

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