Reviewer’s report

Title: Fructus Ligustri Lucidi Modulates Estrogen Receptor Expression With No Uterotrophic Effect in Ovariectomized Rats

Version: 1 Date: 25 Jul 2017

Reviewer: NORAZLINA BINTI MOHAMED

Reviewer’s report:

1. Typo and grammatical errors are noted.

2. Sentence phrasing can be further improved so that it is more understandable.

3. Results: when presenting results, it is best to avoid any statement which reflects discussion. It is best to leave the statement in Discussion section.

4. Results: Need to revise the description in Results. Misleading information regarding Figure 1 and 2. For eg page 10 first paragraph: ER alpha is Figure 1. ER beta is Figure 2. But this sentence mentioned both alpha and beta, and referring to Figure 1. In addition, why did authors say E2 is more significant than FLL? E2 group is not significantly different than FLL. If it is significant, should have put a label to indicate the significant difference.

5. Some figures only have one significant difference i.e p<0.05 or p<0.01. If only one significant difference exist, then the legend should only mention one. No need to put both significance in the legend.

6. Figure 6 was not stated anywhere in the text.

7. Discussion page 11: Figure 2 which is the IOD value shows significant difference. But Figure 3, relative ratio, no significant difference for ERbeta. This can be misleading. Thus your sentence 'no obvious effect on ER beta' can be confusing. What's the difference between IOD value and relative ratio? Which one is more reflective of the values? Why presented both?

8. Discussion page 13: please check this sentence - Deficiency of E2 significantly impedes bone loss. (How does deficiency in E2 impedes bone loss?)

9. Page 13: Please also check this sentence - The reduction of FSH may contribute to uterus atrophy. Isn't it contradictory to the previous statement: high circulating FSH contributes to endometrial atrophy.

10. Figure legends need to be revised. There's no A, B, C, D labelled at each group. Only A for histological analysis and B for the bar chart. For figures 3 and 6, there are A for the expression bands, B for ER alpha bar chart and C for ER beta bar chart. Typo in the legends. Supposed to be in uterus but legends say in bone.
11. For histological images, should describe what the arrows are pointing at.

12. Revise the references list. A few incomplete citation.

Full comments are stated on the pdf manuscript which has been uploaded and submitted together with these comments.

*Kindly note that I was only able to view the figures and table available in the original document. There is no figures and table available in the revised document.

**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?**
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Yes

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Yes

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