Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effect of long-term feeding of the Obudu natural honey and table sugar-sweetened diets on obesity and pro-inflammatory biomarkers in rats.

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Author’s response to reviews:

SN  Editor/reviewer comment  Response/rebuttal
1  In the Methods section of your manuscript, please provide extensive, explicit details regarding the euthanization of study animals. Please provide full details regarding the time relative to the study which animals were sacrificed; the anesthesia used (if applicable), along with volume and concentration; and the ultimate method of euthanization. These details have been provided in section 2.4 lines 172 – 181 (methodology).
2  Please declare whether the ethics committee which approved your study protocol was the appropriate review board to do so. It is not implied by the name of the ethics committee that it specializes in animal study protocol’s. There have been increasing efforts in Nigeria to incorporate the use of the ACURET initiative and guidelines in regards to the handling of study animals. Please clarify why ACURET guidelines are not mentioned as being adhered to. The Faculty Animal Research Ethics Committee, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (FAREC-FBMS), University of Calabar is the appropriate board to approve the use of animals (see lines 392 – 394). ACURET guidelines was adhered to, but it not mentioned because we considered that it is still an initiative and a movement. Its provisions have not been put as a code and formalize for global acceptance and reference. In fact, it had organized a workshop in our University, in collaboration with the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences.
3  While assessing your manuscript we found several instances where the text displayed overlap with other previously published works, in particular:

https://doi.org/10.1210/jc.2004-0395
Overlap with this previously published work was found mainly in lines 355 – 358.

While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could reformulate the aforementioned section of your paper to resolve the overlap between your manuscript and other sources. Please ensure that, where relevant,
these sources are also referenced as appropriate.

If this study uses methodology from a previously published work, please provide a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper. The overlap has been resolved (see lines 360 – 362).

4 At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. A clean copy submitted

5 Labelling of Figure 6 is incorrect. There is a switch with figure 7. The switch has been corrected