ANSWERING REVIEWERS

March 13, 2017

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 32943-Answering reviewers.doc).

Title: Perspective of traditional Chinese medicine in pancreas protection for acute pancreatitis

Author: Jun Li, Shu Zhang, Rui Zhou, Jian Zhang, Zongfang Li

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 32943

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) **The majority of the literature analyzed in this paper concern the experimental studies on the mice and rats and therefore is difficult to translate these results on humans, taking into account that acute pancreatitis is a very acute state and usually the patients need the rapid and intensive traditional medical treatment.**
Answer: We would like to thank the reviewer for the comments about TCM in translational medicine research. Actually, TCM has been applied in clinical treatment as a complementary and alternative therapy and exhibit good effects for many years. Combined with conventional treatment, TCM can improve clinical symptom, shorten hospitalization and amylase recovery time. TCM, such as rheum and natrii sulfas, were widely used as an adjunctive treatment in the guidelines for AP in China and demonstrated good clinical effect.

(2) **For the readers who are not familiar with traditional Chinese medicine would be useful to explain some terms and their meaning, like "heat evil", "qi", "yin".**
Answer: We would like to thank the reviewer for the comments about the terms. The terms like "heat evil", "*qi*" and "*yin*" have been explained in text, so that the readers who are not familiar with TCM could understand it.

(3) **The definition of AP and SAP is unclear. Authors should mention about it.**
Answer: Distinction between AP and SAP has been added in the text.

(4) **In Table 1, authors should describe the survival rates and/or curative rates of acute pancreatitis.**

Answer: It has been indicated in the text that TCM could decrease the mortality of AP/SAP rats in experimental researches. As a complementary and alternative therapy for the clinical therapy of AP, TCM is usually combined with conventional treatment and display its effect on decreasing dual infection rate and fatality, improving clinical symptoms, promoting the recovery of intestinal function and regulating the balance of inflammatory cytokines in many clinical studies. The table 1 is mainly focused on the mechanisms of TCM treatments, we don't think it's appropriate to put the survival data here.

(5) **Text seems descriptive. Authors should use more tables and figures.**
Answer: We would like to thank the reviewer for the comments about figures. Figure 1 and Figure 2 have been added in the text.

(6) **It made reach the bar for publication but currently it still needs to be extensively edited for English grammar and construction.**
Answer: English grammar and construction were edited by a professional English language editing companies.

(7) **The authors also need to more extensively detail and describe the potential second messenger pathways. I recommend they provide some figures which describe the structure of the mediators and something about how they are used with other forms of medication.**
Answer: 2 figures have been added in the text. Figure 1 is about the chemical structures of the mediators and Figure 2 is about the proposed mechanisms of TCM at molecular level.

(8) **Are there clinical studies on these treatments? How do they compare with other therapies?**
Answer: There are clinical studies in these treatments. As showed in text, qingyi decoction, dachengqi decoction, chaiqinchengqi decoction, huoxueqingyi decoction, rheum and natrii sulfas have all exhibited good effects in AP/SAP patients. It has been confirmed that the patients can be benefit from the TCM as an alternative therapy.

(9) **Several targets are described, e.g. junctional proteins in lung injury. Is this in rats, mice or humans? Please state what is known in each system (rat, human, etc.) and in what AP model.**
Answer: The targets described in the text were mainly of rats and humans. The kind of AP model has been stated in the text.

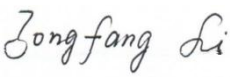
(10) **Do AP models accurately reflect human disease? Cerulein is a useful model but is not like human disease in all respects. Please make the changes in content and**

then have edited for English language, providing the list of chemistries.

Answer: For the preclinical study, we don't think there are any animal model can perfectly reflect human disease. Although it is not like human disease in all respects, cerulein is still generally used for AP study in experiment research for a long time. English language has been edited by a professional English language editing companies. The chemical structure and list of TCM monomer were showed in Figure 1.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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