

May 29, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 10583-review.doc).

Title: Advances in treatment of ulcerative colitis by herbs: From bench to bedside

Author: Ping Wan, Hao Chen, Yuan Guo, Aiping Bai

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 10583

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. We thank the reviewers for the complimentary remarks and many encouraging, insightful and constructive comments. We have addressed the points of concern in the revised text, with details below.

(1) Response to Reviewer 1 (No. 13033): We agree with the reviewer that these aspects are important and are pleased to provide the revision. We summarized the clinical trials with herbal treatments, as shown in Table 1. The description about the method of literature searching has been added (Page 5). The benefits of herbs and shortcoming of herbal treatment have been discussed in Conclusion section.

(2) Response to Reviewer 2 (No. 506041): We concur with the reviewer's point, and made the comments on the trials in Conclusion section. The language of the manuscript has been polished.

(3) Response to Reviewer 3 (No. 39636): These are valid and important considerations and we agree with these points. As a useful treatment of diseases as shown by clinical trials and experimental models, herb medicine has emerged as the promising alternative of conventional therapies. In this min-review, we outlined the potentials of herb medicine, and wish this mini-review type introduction of herb medicine can help readers understand the potential benefits of herb treatment in general.

To pertinently study the clinical trials, it is the best to perform systematic reviews and analyze the data provided by a large number of scientific articles. We realized and summarized the very limited number of publications about clinical trials using herb medicine for UC patients.

Summary of operating principles of herb medicine would help better understanding the function of those herbs. Meanwhile, most of the herbs discussed in the mini-review show regulation of a variety of intestinal cells, and exhibit multiple functions, e.g. inhibiting NFkB signaling, down-regulating cytokine and chemokine production, scavenging superoxide products. We discussed the bioactivities of herbs in more detail.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aiping Bai'.

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