**ANSWERING REVIEWERS**

January 28, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1110-review.doc).

**Title:** **Effects of Lizhong Tang in cultured mouse small intestinal interstitial cells of Cajal**

**Author:** Min Woo Hwang, Jung Nam Kim, Ho Jun Song, Bora Lim, Young Kyu Kwon, Byung Joo Kim

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1110

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

In their manuscript, Kim and colleagues studies the effect of Lizhong Tang (LT), an herbal product used in traditional Chinese medicine, on the pacemaking activity of mouse small intestinal interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC). The authors demonstrate that LT modulates the pacemaker activity of ICCs. The results from the use of several inhibitors suggest that this effect is dependent on non-selective cation channels, PLC activation and release of calcium from the ER.

Minor points that the authors should address:

(1) it is not clear why the authors chose LT dosage in the range 5-50 mg/ml. How does this relate to the dosage that could effectively reach ICCs in the intestine?

Response) Thanks for your good questions. Firstly, we investigated the effectively dosage of LT on ICCs. After then, we found the dosage of the 5 mg/ml that was shown the change of membrane depolarizations in ICCs. Therefore, we chose LT dosage in the range 5-50 mg/ml.

(2) In Figure 1, potentials in control untreated ICCs should be added.

Response) We added the control that LT was untreated ICCs in Fig. 1.

(3) In the discussion section (page 8) the authors should make it clear what the “middle burner” is, as this might not obvious to all the readers.

Response) Thanks for your good questions. It means “liver and spleen”. Therefore, we changed middle burner into liver and spleen.

(4) As a more general comment, it is not clear why the authors chose the tested inhibitors and how their results allow to understand the mode of action of LT. More effort should be made in the discussion section to summarise the results obtained with the different inhibitors in a model of the molecular mechanisms that are triggered by LT.

Response) We made good the discussion section to summarise the results obtained with the different inhibitors in a model of the molecular mechanisms that are triggered by LT.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

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