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### Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



August 25, 2012

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

**Title:** Therapeutic effects of butein in IL-10<sup>-/-</sup> mice colitis and its impact on the IL-6/STAT3 pathway.

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

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 10695

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) Reviewer code:** 00503404

Author's reply )

Thank you for your kind correction. I corrected this paper as you designated.

**Comments; 1.** The research methodology is acceptable, but authors should add animal numbers per group and provide some numeric data in the text. A 5 animal per group is barely acceptable (a minimum of 7 animals is the limit for statistical analysis), thus please confirm that there were repeated experiments with similar results.

Author's reply). We added the additional experimental results as you designated. We obtained the same results as previously described.

**Comments; 2.** Have authors also assessed clinical outcomes, like colon length or animal weight. This is again essential for proving a clinical efficacy.

Author's reply) We added the changes of body weight and the result of colonic length. In IL-10 KO mice model, changes of stool consistency was not clearly detected compared with DSS colitis model.

**Comments; 3.** Authors should also study other animal models (e.g. DSS colitis) to prove a beneficial effect in different settings.



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Author reply) Thank you for your kind remark. We absolutely agree with your opinion and recommendation. But, there are some differences in the mechanism of developing colitis between two mice models. As you know, Th1-mediated pathways are major signaling pathway in IL-10 mice models which is a Crohn's disease model. DSS-induced colitis model has been known to be a mice model which is mimicking human ulcerative colitis. DSS-induced injury is usually mediated by epithelial apoptosis. So, we think that it might be a valuable result to demonstrate the therapeutic effect of butein in this mice model without additional experiment using other mice colitis models including DSS and TNBS -induced colitis. As, we have a plan to perform the other colitis experiment with butein using other mice models as you designate.

(2) Reviewer code: 00051081

Author's reply ) Thank you for your kind comments

3. References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

이 범 재

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