

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** Tao Chen has received research funding from the grant “Hubei Province Natural Science Fund Projects” [2011CADO39, Tao Chen]. Tao Chen is an employee of the Medical Science College of China Three Gorges University. Tao Chen owns patent [Chen T, inventor; Chinese medicine effective component optimization formula of against hepatocellular carcinoma; STATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE P.R.C; ZL 2006 1 0135871.X, patent no].

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tao Chen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.