

## Biostatistics statement

Haojiang Zuo's manuscript (manuscript title: Effects of *Ligustrum Robustum* on Gut Microbes and Obesity in Rats. Manuscript NO.:17670) have obeyed the following rules when using biostatistics: (1) Statistical methods are adequately and appropriately described when they are used to verify the results; (2) Whether the statistical techniques are suitable or correct; (3) Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. The number of observations and subjects (n) is given. Losses in observations, such as drop-outs from the study, are reported; (4) Values, such as ED50, LD50 and IC50, have the 95% confidence limits calculated and have been compared by weighted probit modeling (using the functions described by Bliss and Finney); and (5) The word "significantly" is replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the *P* value (if it indicates statistical significance).

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Xing Zhao from Department of Biostatistics, West China School of Public Health, Sichuan University.

Xing Zhao

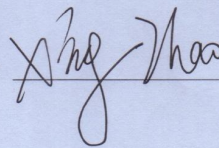
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Date: 2015-6-17