

May 9, 2015

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your comments on our manuscript and also I would like to thank the reviewers of World Journal of Gastroenterology to give us very valuable comments. According to the comments and suggestions, we have revised our manuscript (see RED font in revised manuscript) and responded point by point to the reviewers' comments.

We hope that this revised manuscript will fit World Journal of Gastroenterology publication standard. We are looking forward to your decision.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17873-review.doc).

Title: The role of phytochemicals in colorectal cancer prevention. A review of the literature.

Author: Yuhua Li, Yinbo Niu, Yang Sun, Feng Zhang, Changxu Liu, Lei Fan, Qibing Mei

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17873

Best wishes and regards,

Sincerely Yours

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## **Responses to reviewers' comments:**

**Question 1:** Abbreviations like IKK, TNF- $\alpha$ , MMPs, PGE2, ACF etc... are not defined and should therefore be defined at their first appearance in the text. ? ACF is defined in the paragraph on resveratrol, but it is mentioned earlier in the text so please use the abbreviated form in the paragraph on resveratrol and the complete naming before. ? Remove lipopolysaccharide (LPS) from paragraph on apple polysaccharide because the abbreviation has been previously included. ?

**Answer:** Thank you very much for your professional advice and pointing out our negligence.

(1) We have added the definition of the abbreviations like IKK, TNF- $\alpha$ , MMPs, PGE2, ACF etc... at their first appearance in the text. Please check.

(2) We have used the abbreviated form in the paragraph on resveratrol and removed lipopolysaccharide (LPS) from paragraph on apple polysaccharide.

**Question 2:** This part needs referencing “The pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic effect of oral Curcuma extract in patients with colorectal cancer was investigated. A dose-escalation pilot study of Curcuma extract at doses of 0.45–3.6 g for a period of 4 months in 15 patients with advanced CRC revealed a dose dependant inhibition of COX-2 activity, measured as basal and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-mediated PGE2 production in blood revealing the efficacy of curcumin in colorectal cancer” ? This part needs referencing “And saponins of several plants are known to induce apoptosis in some cancer cells.” ?

**Answer:** Thank you for your suggestion. We have added the references at the 2 places. Please check.

**Question 3:** Clearly indicate headings, for example, polysaccharides, curcumin, resveratrol, quercetin and saponins should be capitalized to indicate that they are the major headings and then the subheadings (apple polysaccharides, mushroom glucans, Paris saponins, ginsenosides and soy saponins) underneath need to be indicated as well by using a different font than the major heading. ?

**Answer:** The headings of "polysaccharides, curcumin, resveratrol, quercetin and saponins" have been capitalized.

**Question 4:** You could add clinical trials that are investigating the role of these chemopreventive agents in addition to standard chemotherapy regimens to add clinical insight to your paper, many trials are ongoing that are evaluating curcumin and resveratrol, please include these. You could include them in table format and mention them in the conclusion. ?

**Answer:** Your professional suggestion will shed light on our future study. As you mentioned, we have found several ongoing clinical trials that are evaluating curcumin and resveratrol. We then summarized them in table 1 and hope it will be appropriate.

**Question 5:** The manuscript is a bit weak in its grammatical context and sentence structure, I would recommend English editing.

**Answer:** We have asked a native English researcher to help us correct the grammar. Also, we have read the literatures again carefully and tried our best to make the expressions as native English speaker. Please see the red font. We hope it will be appropriate.

**Question 6:** I think you need to refer to updated references

**Answer:** Thank you for your suggestion. We have added some ongoing clinical trials which are evaluating curcumin and resveratrol in Table 1 and hope it will be appropriate.