

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 70196

**Title:** Mechanism of electroacupuncture and herb-partitioned moxibustion on ulcerative colitis animal model: A study based on proteomics

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03763746

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BSc, MA, MPhil, MSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Research Scientist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Pakistan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-09-03

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-09-10 03:46

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-09-23 11:44

**Review time:** 13 Days and 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title: Please do not use abbreviations and provide full description of DSS in the title. This is recommended to use the term "Animal Model" instead of "rats". Abstract: Please write full description for Sv2a, Ncbp1, Cps1, Cox4i1, Atp5f1, Dclk3. Core tip: Please rephrase "Cox4i1 that associated with oxidative phosphorylation, then might" to "Cox4i1 that are associated with oxidative phosphorylation, that might" Figure 2 Legend: Please write full description of SD rat in A Figure 3-9 Legends: Please provide full description of DSS and UC Conclusions: Line 1: Please change "to provided" to "to provide" It is suggested that please provide full description of DSS and UC MATERIALS AND METHODS DSS-induced UC Model preparation: 2nd last Line: Please change "to evaluated" to "to evaluate" As per ARRIVE guidelines please provide route of administration (mention oral), method of euthanasia if animal were suffering, time of the day for drug administration. Please mention if the animals were drug or test naïve, previous procedures, number of cage companions Grouping and interventions: Please enter a space between carthami, Salvia Statistical analysis: Please full description of ANOVA and LSD. Also please mention the methods used for Proteomics data analysis. Results: Protein-protein interactions (PPI) analysis: Please mention the STRING version and p value for PPI. Please rephrase the paragraph in a way that sentences do not start with a number. REFERENCES: The references# 1-7 are up until 2017. This would be better if some of the articles from recent years could be replaced/added instead. Reference#16 is from 1990. It is suggested to replace reference from recent years.

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**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04770380

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-09-03

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-10-08 12:05

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-10-16 09:35

**Review time:** 7 Days and 21 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript entitled “Effect of electroacupuncture and moxibustion on immune and oxidative phosphorylation-associated protein expression profiles in DSS-induced ulcerative colitis rats” by Qi et al. aims to study molecular mechanisms underlying the effects of electroacupuncture and moxibustion in DSS-induced ulcerative colitis (UC) in modeled rats. As the authors stated in the Introduction “acupuncture and moxibustion have significant efficacy and advantages in the treatment of UC”. However, there is not obvious because there is no strong evidence of the efficacy of these two procedures alone because in the Refs that the authors provided, they are mostly, used in combination with medication and herbs. Moreover, in Materials and Methods section an herb cake-based moxibustion was also used, therefore its effects can be at least in part attributed to the influence of herbal components. Other major concerns: 1. Title of the manuscript should be changed because little evidence on the involvement of immune response and oxidative phosphorylation is provided (see below). 2. In the Results and Discussion sections, GO and KEGG functional enrichment analyses require more deep and detailed functional analysis, instead of just listing of biological processes without interpretation. For example, the term “binding” has a wide range of meanings, while, the terms “catalytic activity” and “metabolic process” mean the same functions, while “transporter activity” indicates functioning as a transporter protein, and “structural activity” means a role of a structural part of cells and organelles. 3. Additionally, Atp5o, Atp5l, Atp5f, Atp5h are ATP synthase (complex V) subunits, while Cox4i1 is a subunit of cytochrome c oxidase (complex IV) that is a component of electron transportation chain (ETC). Strictly speaking, these proteins cannot be attributed to oxidative phosphorylation

because OXPHOS is coupling of ETC functioning with ATP synthesis; and there can be uncoupling of these two processes. 4. The term “immune system” was identified only in GO processes and KEGG pathways. However, no one protein involved in the immune response regulation was identified and analyzed in this study. Instead, in PPI network analysis, proteins involved in inflammation regulation such as serpins were identified. It would be good to discuss them in more details. 5. Additionally, functional analysis of proteins that were changed in their expression level in M, HM and EA (as shown by Western blotting) groups should be provided. Minor concerns: 1. Figure 4 was missed in the text despite it presents among the manuscript Figures. 2. In Materials and Methods section, scoring of the colon should be described. Also, “microscopic scoring of the colon was performed according to the Score Criteria of Colonic Histological Damage” stated. while in the Fig.3 legend tells “macroscopic scores”. 3. In the Results section, the sentence “the cellular components mainly included cells, organelles, the cell membrane, macromolecular complexes, extracellular components, and the extracellular domain” should be removed because all existed compartments are listed and these data are uninformative.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04770380

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Russia

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-09-03

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jing-Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-12-29 13:58

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-01-07 14:35

**Review time:** 9 Days

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

It is hard to assess the revised version of the manuscript because (i) the authors provided the lengthy responses and (ii) the corrections in the text of the manuscript were not highlighted in any way. I recommend the authors to resubmit the revised version of the manuscript with correction highlights.