

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS

22<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find the enclosed electronic copy of the full-text manuscript in Word format (file name file name 19147-Revised manuscript.doc).

Title: Guggulsterone induces apoptosis in human hepatocellular carcinoma cells through activation of the intrinsic mitochondrial pathway

Author: Juan-Juan Shi, Xiao-Li Jia, Mei Li, Ning Yang, Ya-Ping Li, Xin Zhang, Ning Gao, Shuang-Suo Dang

### Manuscript No: 19147

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)-Except in Fig. 1, there is no data presented to compare the effect of GS on HepG2 cells versus normal L-02 cells, particularly the effects on Bax and Bcl2 mRNA. Since GS inhibited viability of normal cells to about 60 % (Fig. 1), this data would be useful to contrast it with HepG2 cells and on the effectiveness of GS.

**Thanks a lot for the good comment. We have added the data in the manuscript.**

(2)-Authors should comment on the selectivity of action of GS on HCC versus normal cells?

**According to the normal hepatocyte cell line data added in the results part, we have added a new para to comment on the selectivity effects of GS.**

(3)- There are several reports on GS effects on a variety of cells and systems. It will be useful to critically evaluate the novelty of the present study and how it offers new mechanisms for GS actions.

**We have added one paragraph to evaluate the novelty of this study and the potential mechanism for GS actions in the discussion**

(4)- Manuscript requires editorial attention for its English language.

**Yes, we have revised the language in the text.**

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

Sincerely yours,

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