

Response to Professor Hu Jinyu's Letter [Response to Letter]

Xiaomin Kang^{1,2}, De Jin³, Hangyu Ji¹, Xuedong An¹, Yuehong Zhang¹, Liyun Duan¹,
Cunqing Yang¹, Rongrong Zhou¹, Yingying Duan^{1,2}, Yuqing Zhang¹, Yuting Sun¹, Linlin Jiang^{1,2},
Fengmei Lian¹, Xiaolin Tong¹

¹Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing, People's Republic of China; ²Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Beijing, People's Republic of China; ³Hangzhou Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China

Correspondence: Xiaolin Tong; Fengmei Lian, Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, No. 5, Beixiangge, Xicheng District, Beijing, 100053, People's Republic of China, Email tongxiaolin@vip.163.com; 694397644@qq.com

Dear editor

We sincerely appreciate Professor Jinyu Hu's interest in our research and highly commend his academic enthusiasm in the field of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) research on Gegen Qinlian Decoction (GQD) for type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) treatment.¹

GQD has been a long-standing research focus of our team. Through clinical observations and case studies, we have validated its glucose-lowering potential, including reporting its significant efficacy in T2DM outpatients, and further clarifying its dose-response relationship.^{2,3} Our recently published clinical trials employed a rigorous randomized controlled design to investigate the dose-effect relationship of the main drug (*Puerariae Lobatae Radix* or *Coptidis Rhizoma*) in GQD. All participants received standardized lifestyle interventions and exercise guidance to minimize confounding factors. Beyond clinical outcomes, we have deeply investigated GQD's mechanisms of action. It exerts multi-target synergistic effects along the "Bacteria-Mucosal Immunity-Inflammation-Diabetes" axis, modulating microbial composition by promoting beneficial bacteria including butyrate-producing species (eg, *Faecalibacterium*), suppressing pro-inflammatory factors, and restoring intestinal mucosal barrier function, thereby ameliorating T2DM metabolic disorders.⁴⁻⁸

We fully agree with Professor Hu's perspectives on future research directions. Setting a positive drug control group (eg, metformin) would allow for a more direct evaluation of GQD's hypoglycemic power. Conducting long-term follow-up studies could also reveal GQD's potential benefits against diabetic complications (eg, nephropathy, cardiovascular events). These future research directions will further strengthen the clinical evidence chain for GQD.

Once again, we extend our gratitude to Professor Hu for his attention to our research and his dedication to studies on GQD in T2DM treatment. The modernization of TCM necessitates multidisciplinary collaboration and sustained exploration. We eagerly anticipate working alongside academic peers to advance the precise application of GQD in diabetes management.

Disclosure

The authors report no relevant commercial or financial conflicts of interest in this communication.

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