# PEER REVIEW PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS (and ASSOCIATE EDITORS)

### Before you submit

Dear Author, to save your and our time, please read carefully the information below before you start the submission. Below we illustrate the criteria for processing your manuscript. Check carefully if your article has good chances to be processed for peer reviewing and possible acceptance. We also strongly encourage you to read the editorial note "Isidoro C, Huang CC, Sheen LY. Publishing scientifically sound papers in Traditional and Complementary Medicine. J Tradit Complement Med. 2016 Jan 16;6(1):1-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jtcme.2015.12.005."

### Transparent reviewing process (see the flow-chart).

#### Principal reasons for rejection are:

- The manuscript does not comply the editorial requirements (graphical abstract, institutional email, etc.)
- Out of scope. Articles not fitting with the aims and scope of the journal will be rejected by the Editors prior to review. eJTCM publishes articles focusing on "Traditional and Complementary" treatments to cure human diseases and/or to prevent diseases and to promote health. Alternative Medicines that are not founded on scientific grounds (e.g., Homeopathy, Bach's flower, reflexology, etc.) are not the focus of eJTCM. Non pharmacological treatments such as physical exercise, meditation, music therapy, aroma therapy and similar, though are well recognized to provide effective benefit for human health, might be considered for publication only if the pathophysiological mechanisms of action are investigated.
- Lack of mechanistic explanation of the therapeutic and preventive effect.

  Observational, descriptive and preliminary studies not providing a biochemical and/or pathophysiological explanation of the therapeutic effect will be rejected. As an example, articles with title like "Effect of ..." will not be considered (the title should reflect the findings and mechanisms). Also, articles describing the chemical-physical properties of the curative and preventive treatment without the demonstration of biomedical/therapeutic effects will not be considered.
- **Lack of originality.** Studies that are essentially confirmatory of similar studies previously published and not adding to our knowledge will not be considered for publication.
- **Ethical issues** (when dealing with animals and human specimens).
- Data do not support the conclusion.
- Other causes for rejection are: 1. Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism); 2. Data manipulation (manipulation of images); 3. Data duplication or "salami splicing" (splitting the data in two or more articles).

#### **Principal reasons for Major Revision**

- The experimental design needs adjustments and/or requires appropriate controls.
- New experimental data should be provided to support the conclusion.
- Results in Figures must be re-done and confirmed.

## **Principal reasons for Minor revision**

- Need explanation, clarification, more information
- Low quality of figures

- Improve discussion of results by including other (recent) references
- Authors have not considered similar articles previously published in eJTCM
- Improve readability of the manuscript; proof-reading/copyediting for improving English grammar.
- Acknowledgements to funding agency (strongly encouraged)

