March 2, 2019

Dear Editor(s),

Please find enclosed original work titled:” **Antiosteogenic effect of arsenic trioxide, cholecalciferol, and lovastatin *in vivo***” submitted for a review at the Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society.

This work aimed to evaluate three inhibitors of Hedgehog molecular signaling pathway, Arsenic trioxide, Lovastatin and Cholecalciferol (active form of Vitamin D3) as individual agents and in combination for effects on osteogenesis in mesenchymal stem cells (MSC). Here, we demonstrated a functional link between Hh signaling pathway inhibition and osteogenesis in native MSC cells. In addition, our study highlights the utility of a combination approach consisting of a small molecule antagonist of Hh pathway with showed improved efficacy in inhibiting osteogenesis, which might be a new effective a strategy for pathological bone diseases prophylaxis.

We warrant that results presented in this paper are original, not published before and paper is not considered for publication in another Journal. The manuscript contains no libelous or other unlawful statements and does not contain any personal or proprietary rights. Below is a list of suggested reviewers based on their expertise in bone and stem cells research:

1) Dr. Gordana Vunjak Novaković, Professor at Columbia University and Mikati Foundation Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Sciences Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering, email: gv2131@columbia.edu  ; phone : +1-(212) 305-2304;

2) Dr. Sonja Pavlović, Principal Research Fellow Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE), University of Belgrade, email: sonya@sezampro.rs ; phone:+381 11 397 64 45

Thank you for your consideration.