Response to Examiner’s Comments:

1. Review of literature is well written but too much general. I believe the present study would not be the first to apply in vitro bioassay technique to demonstrate the carcinogenic potential of Ochratoxin A. Thus more about the historical review for this type of study would be worthy to summarize then pull out the strength of the current work that is more likely comprehensive approach. I would also suggest to present the review of literature in a tabular form.

Ans 1. I am thankful to the examiner for finding the review of literature well written. As suggested by the examiner, the important sections regarding the toxic potential of Ochratoxin A and potential mechanism(s) of Ochratoxin A-induced carcinogenicity is now represented in tabular form in the revised thesis (Tables 1.2-1.8) along with new recent references. Since, the data regarding the mechanism involved in OTA-mediated carcinogenicity is scanty; therefore, a small paragraph has been included in the revised thesis which summarizes the available knowledge and lacunae in regard of Ochratoxin A-induced carcinogenicity. Furthermore, I would also like to mention that I explain the relevance of the present study in the section 1.6 (Genesis of study) of the present thesis.

2. The photographs presented in the thesis are having very less resolution and appears blurry (Pages 3, 4, 67, 70, 76, 80). Please change the pictures with higher resolution images.

Ans 2. The photographs in pages 3, 4, 67, 70, 76, 80 have been replaced with higher resolution images in the revised thesis as suggested by the examiner.

3. The legend and title of the photographs is having abbreviated words. This should have the full words instead of abbreviation.

Ans 3. As suggested by the examiner all the abbreviated words are replaced with their respective full forms in the title of figure legends in the revised thesis.

4. The title of the chapter 4 is very long and should not contain abbreviated words.

Ans 4. As suggested by the examiner the title of the chapter 4 is shortened without abbreviated words in the revised thesis.

5. In references section, insert the updated or recent references. Also correct the references such as Hennig et al, Hibi et al, Jennings et al, Klaunig et al, Li et al, Liu et al, and others.

Ans 5. The references mentioned in the thesis are now updated and corrected as suggested by the examiner and some other recent references have also been added in the revised thesis.