Reviewer’s report

Title: Antibodies against gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and destruction of enteric neurons in 3 patients suffering from gastrointestinal dysfunction

Version: 2 Date: 11 December 2009

Reviewer: Jackie Wood

Reviewer’s report:

The authors in my view have replied adequately to the concerns of Reviewers 2&3. Although, the work raises many specific and unanswered questions, I refrained from nit-picking criticisms in my earlier review because the paper has significant clinical relevance of broader scope for understanding functional GI disorders. The importance of the paper is that it represents another step in stimulation of interest in the concept that multiple gastrointestinal disorders hitherto having a symptom-based classification of functional in fact reflect an autoimmune degenerative enteric neuropathy. The concept started with the discovery by Verne et. al. (Dig Dis Sci 1997; 42:307) that lower esophageal sphincter achalasia in a majority of patients was explained by the presence of circulating anti-enteric antibodies and immune-related degeneration of the enteric inhibitory motor neurons, which innervate and open the sphincter. This manuscript should add to impetus in stimulating interest in research on autoimmune degenerative enteric neuropathy as the common factor underlying multiple FGIDs (e.g., functional dyspepsia, IBS, idiopathic pseudoobstruction and achalasia in various sphincters. After all, the gut does not work well when the enteric nervous system (ENS) is not working well. The gut does not work at all without the ENS minibrain.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'