Author's response to reviews

Title: Mucosal Progranulin expression is induced by H. pylori, but independent of Secretory Leukocyte Protease Inhibitor (SLPI) expression

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

we thank you and the both reviewers for the helpful comments and identified shortcomings in the manuscript. Please find the “point-to-point” response to your comments. All changes are highlighted in yellow.

We hope that the revised version addresses all points to your satisfaction, and that the revised manuscript can be accepted for publication.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Thomas Wex

“Point-to-point” response

1. Editorial Comment:
   - Could you please remove 'keywords' from the Title Page.
   - In the methods section, could you please include the name of the ethical committee.

   - was done

2. Referee 1:
The manuscript is well written, with only rare typos throughout the text, which should be corrected.
The hypothesis regarding the possible role of SLP1 in progranulin regulation could be better outlined by stating the hypothesis directly in the introduction and abstract.

The hypothesis was clearly stated and was now included in the abstract (page 2, lines 34-36) and introduction (page 5, lines 107-112).

3. Referee 2:

The author mentioned in page 14 that “The results obtained in the AGS cell model do partially not correspond to the ex vivo findings. While ex vivo data demonstrated an upregulation of Progranulin by H. pylori, in the AGS cell model, the secretion was strongly induced, whereas the cellular expression was decreased”. It would be nice that the author suggest their model in a form of figure to show the pathway that the H. pylori takes for the induce such secretory responses.

The former statement in the result and discussion was somehow misleading since it suggested a regulation of the secretory pathway by H. pylori. Since we do not provide any data in this regard, we can not provide a model as suggested by the reviewer. The intention of this paragraph was to highlight the technical difference of the in vitro and ex vivo study to assess the cellular and secreted proportion of Progranulin levels. In order to make this more clearly this paragraph as well as the sentence in the results mentioning the secretory pathway was revised accordingly.

Minor comments:
Page 8, lane 167 make sure the spelling of xylol is correct
Page 8, lane 168 what is thrice meant to be?
Page 11, lane 248, please define a.u
Page 13, lane 295 elastase / SLP1 delete the space the same in lane 296

- mistakes were corrected