Reviewer's report

Title: GDNF protects enteric glia from apoptosis: Evidence for an autocrine loop

Version: 4 Date: 12 August 2011

Reviewer: Bindu Chandrasekharan

Reviewer's report:

The authors Steinkamp et al in their article ‘GDNF protects apoptosis in enteric glia: Evidence for an autocrine loop’ aims to unravel the role of a neurotrophin glial derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) in the regulation of enteric glial apoptosis.

The authors have now performed additional experiments and included the new data in the manuscript. They have also revised the discussion as suggested. However one of the comments raised (comment no.4) has not been pursued as the authors feel that it is beyond the scope of their manuscript. Otherwise I feel that they have addressed all my concerns and the manuscript can be accepted for publication in the current revised form.

Discretionary revision

1. The authors may include the statement that other cytokines like IL-6, IL-1B had no effects on apoptosis in the results section (where they mention effects of TNF-IFY), currently this is included as a part of the discussion in the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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