Reviewer's report

Title: Mitochondrial Uncouplers Inhibit Hepatic Stellate Cell Activation

Version: 1 Date: 29 February 2012

Reviewer: Margarete Odenthal

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe the impact of mitochondrial uncoupling on culture-induced HSC activation and their response to pro-fibrogenic cytokines like TGF-β. This study is of high interest, because the authors show inhibition of profibrogenic features by mitochondrial uncoupling. This knowledge might be useful concerning future therapeutic approaches.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

The authors describe the impact of mitochondrial uncoupling on culture-induced HSC activation and the response to TGF-β. This study is of high interest, because the authors show inhibition of profibrogenic features by mitochondrial uncoupling in stellate cells. This knowledge might be useful concerning future therapeutic approaches. The manuscript is well written and the study includes a wide range of sophisticated technologies such as stellate cell preparation from human liver tissues and many others.

There is only a minor objection.

Minor comment:

The reviewer just asks the authors to correct the title of table 1 into:

Table 1: Primer sequences, probes and accession numbers of transcripts, used for RT PCR quantification.

Further, the reviewer suggests that the authors should show this table as a supplemental table.