Reviewer’s report

Title: High glucose increased LPS induced DC apoptosis through modulation of ERK1/2, AKT and Bax/Bcl-2

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2014

Reviewer: Daniel M Wall

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

(1) An abstract needs to be added.
(2) The figures and legends need to be improved. The figures have not reproduced well and are difficult to interpret, especially the FACS data. In addition it is unclear at times what the figures are supposed to show as the figure legend does not describe exactly is shown. In particular the concept of ‘apoptosis ratio’ is not explained or what it means or how it is calculated.
(3) Figure 5 is difficult to interpret as the GAPDH control appears to be stained quite randomly with regions of intense or diffuse staining. These should be addressed as I presumed the purpose was to show uniform staining in these samples as otherwise it undermines what is shown with the other antibodies.
(4) There are grammatical issues throughout that need to be addressed as these at times can make understanding the data more difficult. In addition, abbreviations need to used and explained at their first use. None were included for example for DC, ECL, LPS, NC or DAB within the first 3 pages.
(5) The reproducibility of Western blotting should be confirmed. No mention is made of whether Westerns were repeated to ensure the observed result was not a one off.
(6) The reason for measurement of nitric oxide in the supernatant of DCs is not explained and it seems a strange thing to measure. The reasons for this should be clarified.

Minor Essential Revisions:

(1) Spelling and grammatical errors throughout and the use of italics where appropriate (e.g. in vitro and in vivo)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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