Reviewer’s report

Title: Benazepril affects integrin-linked kinase and smooth muscle alpha-actin expression in diabetic rat glomerulus and cultured mesangial cells

Version: 1
Date: 9 May 2014
Reviewer: Hannes Neuwirt

Reviewer’s report:

Niu et al. have investigated the impact of an ACE-I on intracellular signaling molecules in GMCs. The data suggest that this involves AKT and ERK1/2 activation and is associated with differential expression of among others ILK or TGFβ1.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions: The statistics used are commonly considered appropriate for Gaussian distributed data. As the number of animals or in vitro experiments are relatively low, this reviewer suggests to use non-parametric test instead (e.g. Mann-Whitney-U or Kruskal-Wallis). Please state Catalog numbers of antibodies and primer/probe-sets used for Westerns and RT-PCR. Please unify the way how citations are separated from the text (with [citation] or without spaces[citation])

Discretionary Revisions: None

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests