Author’s response to reviews

Title: Mu opioid receptor availability in people with psychiatric disorders who died by suicide: A case control study.

Authors:

Elizabeth Scarr (elscarr@unimelb.edu.au)
Tammie T Money (ttmoney@unimelb.edu.au)
Geoffrey Pavey (g.pavey@mhri.edu.au)
Jaclyn Neo (j.neo@mhri.edu.au)
Brian Dean (anddali@unimelb.edu.au)

Version: 2 Date: 25 November 2011

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Patel:

We are submitting our manuscript entitled “Mu opioid receptor availability in people with psychiatric disorders who died by suicide.” to be considered for publication in *BMC Psychiatry*. This manuscript describes, for the first time, decreased availability of mu opioid receptors in brain tissue from people with schizophrenia who died as a result of suicide. This change is specific to schizophrenia with no differences being present in the brains from people with other psychiatric disorders who died as a result of suicide. Interestingly, this study is the first to report an increase in mu opioid receptor density in the brains from people with bipolar disorder. These findings shed new light on the pathophysiology of bipolar disorder and provide new avenues for improving our understanding of suicide, it is hoped that a better understanding of this sad corollary to psychiatric disorders will result in improved interventions.

Since the original submission we have amended our manuscript to include the fact that the tissue used in this study was obtained postmortem, following written consent by the next of kin. The samples are coded to maintain the privacy of the donors; therefore once consent has been given for the samples to be used for research, it is not sought for each study. We apologise for not including this statement in the original submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any queries arising from our submission of this manuscript. All authors have approved the manuscript for publication. Thank you for your attention to this matter, we look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,

Elizabeth Scarr
ARC Future Fellow