Author's response to reviews

Title: The asthma candidate gene NPSR1 mediates isoform specific downstream signalling

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Version: 4 Date: 21 April 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Prof Kere,

Your manuscript has now been peer reviewed and the comments are accessible in PDF format from the link below. Do let us know if you have any problems opening the file.

Referee 1:  
http://www.biomedcentral.com/imedia/1550414548542169_comment.pdf
Referee 2:
http://www.biomedcentral.com/imedia/3009195435387333_comment.pdf

Editorial comments:

As you will see, the referees feel that minor points require further attention in your manuscript.

In addition, we require you to address the following point:

In your manuscript, you indicate that array data for your experiment is deposited at ArrayExpress under the accession number E-MEXP-2782.

We regret to inform you that we cannot find your data at ArrayExpress using this reference number. Please check to ensure that this accession number is correct, if the number is correct we would be grateful if you would be able to provide us with a working link to your record on this database.

We would be grateful if you could address the comments in a revised manuscript and provide a cover letter giving a point-by-point response to the concerns.

Please also highlight (with 'tracked changes'/coloured/underlines/highlighted text) all changes made when revising the manuscript to make it easier for the Editors to give you a prompt decision on your manuscript.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript by 19 May 2011. If you imagine that it will take longer to prepare please give us some estimate of when we can expect it.

You should upload your cover letter and revised manuscript through http://www.biomedcentral.com/manuscript/login/man.asp?txt_nav=man&txt_man_id=1443247055467995. You will find more detailed instructions at the base of this email.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any problems or questions regarding your manuscript.

With best wishes,

Tim

Tim Shipley, PhD
Executive Editor
BMC-series Journals
BioMed Central
Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to revise the minor changes in the manuscript.

We do apologise for not providing the relevant information for accessing the microarray data. The ArrayExpress accession: E-MEXP-2782 is available at http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/. Please follow the link to "Submitter/reviewer login" and use the following login details: Username: Reviewer_E-MEXP-2782, and Password: 1292940863325. The data will be publically released upon acceptance of the manuscript. We have also provided an explanation regarding the confusion about the EC50, which in part was due to a typing error. Please find the detailed explanation below.

We believe that the manuscript is now improved from the previous version, and hope that it is now acceptable for BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Sincere regards,

Juha Kere

Corresponding author

Reviewer’s report
Title: The asthma candidate gene NPSR1 mediates isoform specific downstream signalling
Version: 3 Date: 18 April 2011
Reviewer: Girolamo Calo
Reviewer’s report:
in the revised version of the ms the authors addressed most if not all the issues raised by this referee in our opinion this revised version of the ms is now substantially improved and can be published in BMC

Reviewer’s report
Title: The asthma candidate gene NPSR1 mediates isoform specific downstream signalling
Version: 3 Date: 8 April 2011
Reviewer: Alex Therien
Reviewer’s report:
This manuscript is much improved from the first version. The statistical analysis demonstrates that the differences between NPSR-A and -B are real and the complete overlap in the FACS curves shows that expression of the two isoforms is comparable even upon NPS-stimulation. I have only minor question, but otherwise the manuscript is acceptable for publication.
Discretionary revisions: On page 14 the authors claim that the EC50 is 100 nM for all genes except CGA (for which the EC50 is claimed to be 10 nM), but the data for CGA in Table 2 and in the graph in Fig 3b does not support this. The EC50 calculated from Table 2 is 45 nM and estimated from Fig 3b is around 100 nM.

We thank the reviewer to notice the mistake about the potency for CGA which should be exchanged to NR4A2 (which have now been corrected in the manuscript). Thus the value for CGA is certainly 45
nM which in fact also is shown in the figure but not so clear due to the log scale. In fact, what we really want to say is that the values for all except NR4A2 have pEC50 values close to 7 but since the value of 7 is kind of abstract we transformed into the concentration (0.1 nM) which is more clear for a reader. With the transformation from a log value to an ordinary value it can deviate quite a bit from it. But to since we still want to keep the number without log-transformation in the text, we change the expression "close to 0.1 nM" to "around 0.1 nM" instead.

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