Author's response to reviews

Title: Physiological Effects of Ghrelin in Cachectic COPD: substudy of a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of ghrelin treatment

Authors:

Keisuke Miki (mikisuke@toneyama.go.jp)
Ryoji Maekura (maekurar@toneyama.hosp.go.jp)
Noritoshi Nagaya (nnagaya@hotmail.co.jp)
Seigo Kitada (kitadase@toneyama.go.jp)
Mari Miki (marimiki@toneyama.go.jp)
Kenji Yoshimura (kyoshik@toneyama.go.jp)
Yoshitaka Tateishi (mikisuke1@hotmail.co.jp)
Masaharu Motone (motone@smile.ocn.ne.jp)
Toru Hiraga (hiragat@joy.ocn.ne.jp)
Masahide Morite (mmori@toneyama.go.jp)
Kenji Kangawa (kangawa@ri.ncvc.go.jp)

Version: 2 Date: 9 January 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find our manuscript entitled “Physiological Effects of Ghrelin in Cachectic COPD: substudy of a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of ghrelin treatment” by Miki K. et al., which we would like to be considered for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) often develop cachexia, which affects their exercise capacity and survival. Ghrelin, as a treatment targeting cachexia, has been proposed to improve symptom and exercise performance in cachectic COPD patients. The underlying mechanism, however, has not been elucidated. In this manuscript, we reported that ghrelin administration was associated with improved exertional capacity and improvements in ventilatory-cardiac parameters. Development of ghrelin administration as a novel cachexia-targeted therapy capable of improving exercise performance may be helpful in COPD management. We believe that the aspect of this manuscript will provide a helpful insight to manage those patients and make it interesting to general readers of BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

I am sure that neither the work nor any part of its essential substance, tables or figures have been or will be published or submitted to another scientific journal or is being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors participated in study design, data review, and data interpretation. All authors saw and approved have read the final version of the report and approved submission of the manuscript. All authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Thank you for your consideration.
I would suggest that the following people as suitable peer referees for this manuscript (their fields of interest are indicated in parenthesis after their names).

1) **Professor Yoshinosuke Fukuchi** (Respiratory Medicine)
Department of Respiratory Medicine, CRD Research Institute, Juntendo University, Japan. E-mail: yfukuchi@tea.ocn.ne.jp

2) **Professor, Kazuwa Nakao** (Ghrelin)
Department of Medicine and Clinical Science, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan. E-mail: nakao@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp

3) **Professor, Pierantonia Laveneziana** (Respiratory Medicine),
Université de Paris 06, Equipe de Recherche ER 10 UPMC, Laboratoire de Physio-Pathologie Respiratoire, Faculté de Médecine Pierre et Marie Curie, France. E-mail: pier_lav@yahoo.it

4) **Professor, Denis E. O'Donnell** (Respiratory Medicine)
Respiratory Investigation Unit, Queen’s University and Kingston General Hospital, Kingston, ON, Canada. E-mail: odonnell@queensu.ca

5) **Professor, Yasuhiko Nishioka** (Respiratory Medicine)
Department of Internal Medicine and Molecular Therapeutics, Institute of Health Biosciences, The University of Tokushima Graduate School, Japan. E-mail: yasuhiko@clin.med.tokushima-u.ac.jp

Sincerely yours,
Keisuke Miki

Please send all related correspondence to:
Keisuke Miki, M D, PhD,
Department of Internal Medicine, National Hospital Organization Toneyama National Hospital, 5-1-1 Toneyama, Toyonaka, Osaka, 560-8552, Japan
Phone: +81-6-6853-2001, Fax: +81-6-6853-3127, E-mail: mikisuke@toneyama.go.jp