Author's response to reviews

Title: Characterization of a murine model of monocrotaline pyrrole-induced acute lung injury

Authors:

Rio Dumitrascu (rio.dumitrascu@uglc.de)
Silke Koebrich (silke.koebrich@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Eva Dony (Eva.dony@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Norbert Weissmann (Norbert.Weissmann@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Rajkumar Savai (Rajkumar.Savai@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Soni S Pullamsetti (Soni.Pullamsetti@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Hossein Ardeschir Ghofrani (Ardeschir.Ghofrani@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Horst Traupe (Horst.Traupe@radiol.med.uni-giessen.de)
Werner Seeger (Werner.Seeger@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Friedrich Grimminger (Friedrich.Grimminger@innere.med.uni-giessen.de)
Ralph Theo Schermuly (Ralph.Schermuly@mpi-bn.mpg.de)

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2008

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor!

Please find our online submitted manuscript entitled “Characterization of a murine model of monocrotaline pyrrole-induced acute lung injury”


in consideration for publication in BMC Pulmonary Medicine.

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare life-threatening disease, affecting mostly young people, with an extremely poor prognosis. In this study we initially planned to establish a new animal model of pulmonary hypertension by injection of monocrotaline pyrrole in mice. Monocrotaline is commonly used in rats to induce severe progressive pulmonary hypertension. The limited opportunities to investigate genetic contributions to the pathophysiology of pulmonary hypertension using rats highlight the importance of mice. In this study we performed elaborate analysis of survival, hemodynamics, gas exchange, lung function, computer tomography and standard histology to describe the inflammatory effects of monocrotaline pyrrole in two mouse strains.
We feel that the originality of our findings and the broad interest in new animal models in pulmonary hypertension warrant publication of our article in American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

We hope that you share this conviction.

All authors have read and approved submission of the manuscript and the manuscript has not been published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere in whole or part in any language except as an abstract.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Schermuly, PhD