Reviewer's report

Title: Hind limb unloading of mice modulates gene expression at the protein and mRNA level in mesenchymal bone cells

Version: 2 Date: 20 April 2010

Reviewer: David Monroe

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript entitled "Hind limb unloading of mice modulates gene expression at the protein and mRNA level in mesenchymal bone cells" by Visigalli et al. is a revised manuscript investigating the effects of hind-limb unloading on the expression of numerous genes. While I believe the authors have made substantial improvements in this revised manuscripts in terms of the scientific data, there are still a number of errors/problems with the presentation of the manuscript that need to be corrected.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1) The written English is still very poor and unsuitable for publication in the present form. For example, the very first sentence of the background section "Immobilization for long times by bed rest in humans...." is very awkward and grammatically incorrect. There are numerous examples of improper word usage, subject-verb agreement, capitalization, and pluralization throughout the manuscript.

I believe this manuscript needs to be completely rewritten to comply with the proper usage of the English language, using a native English speaker as an outside advisor if necessary. This is the major deficiency of this manuscript. In fact, the revised manuscript has even more language issues than the original manuscript.

2) The protein names do not need to be capitalized when within a sentence. This is especially true in the background section (i.e. Parathyroid hormone receptor, Procollagenases, Stromal cell-derived factor-1, etc.).

Minor/Discretionary Revisions: none

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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