Author's response to reviews

Title: Age of donor alters the effect of cyclic hydrostatic pressure on production by human macrophages and osteoblasts of sRANKL, OPG and RANK

Authors:

Carol CE Evans (carol.evans@man.ac.uk)
Sarah S Mylchreest (sarah.lewis@man.ac.uk)
Glynne JG Andrew (Glynne.Andrew@nww-tr.wales.nhs.uk)

Version: 3  Date: 25 October 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re:** Cyclic hydrostatic pressure: Effect on synthesis by human macrophages and osteoblasts of sRANKL, OPG and RANK, and possible effects on osteoclast recruitment.

**New title:** Age of donor alters the effect of cyclic hydrostatic pressure on production by human macrophages and osteoblasts of sRANKL, OPG and RANK.

First of all, we wish to thank the Reviewer for his careful and considered critique of this manuscript, which we found extremely helpful. The comments prompted us to look afresh at our data, especially in relation to the ratio of OPG: sRANKL, which we had examined but not included in the first submission.

We have now substantially rewritten the manuscript, both in response to the comments and in the light of our re-examination of our data. Please also note the new title.

Wherever possible we have addressed the reviewer’s comments in the text of the revised MS. However, some points have to be addressed in this letter.

**Major Revisions:**
1. We have removed all references to these cells resorbing bone. The relevant MS is still with the Journal.

2. As far as possible, this has been addressed in the MS, but unfortunately we have no evidence as to the contribution of transmembrane RANKL in our system.

3. This has been addressed in the MS.

4. This has been done.

5. The text has been substantially altered in the light of our data concerning these ratios.

6-8 This has been addressed in the MS.

9. Arrows have been added.

10. This has been done.

11. See 5 above.

12-14. This has been addressed in the MS.

15-17. The relevant paragraphs have been removed from the MS.

The minor alterations have been made.

We hope that this revised MS will now meet with your approval. We feel it is now much improved, thanks to the constructive advice of the Reviewer and has an important message to convey. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if any points are unclear.

Yours sincerely,

C.E. Evans (non-clinical lecturer)
J.G. Andrew (consultant orthopaedic surgeon)
S. Mylchreest (research assistant)