Reviewer's report

Title: Dexamethasone stimulates expression of C-type Natriuretic Peptide in chondrocytes

Version: 1 Date: 5 August 2006

Reviewer: William WAH HORTON

Reviewer's report:

General
Results are very interesting but difficult to interpret since there is no data on proteins, the abundance of which could deviate substantially from mRNA levels. Needs to have data on protein levels.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Authors should not equate relative abundance of mRNA to functional protein as they tend to do, i.e., page 12 line 12 “Nevertheless, glucocorticoid receptor levels remained sufficiently high to confer glucocorticoid effects on several target genes.” The authors note that protein studies will need to be done in the future, but statements like the one just cited are potentially misleading.

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.