**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** A musculoskeletal model of low grade connective tissue inflammation in patients with thyroid associated ophthalmopathy (TAO). The WOMED concept of lateral tension and its general implications in disease.

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**Author's response to reviews:**

Dear Editor and dear reviewers!  
This revision task was a challenge and a positive stimulus. Searching literature citations on PubMed and SCOPUS turned to be almost non-ending. We have called it done after including "only" 370 references. This was needed in order to explain the model of lateral tension. Some of the references are included in MindMaps (R), i.e. a logical graphical representation of the continuum which is similar to the usual citation maps.

We have made measurements of posture changes specially of the head and the feet.

We have considered SOD, IL-6, eccentric muscle action, Ca release regulation and calsequestrin, neurologial integration as well as Se and Zn as important antioxidants.

We have included muscle actions from every day tasks into the final graphical representation of the model (Fig. 18) by which a wider applicability of the model arises.

Being endocrinologists we have not been able to satisfy fully the expectations of Karen Grimmer. Jack R. Wall will find more information on Ca regulation, calsequestrin, and inflammation processes and markers.