Author's response to reviews

Title: Corticotrophin Releasing Factor 2 Receptor Agonist Treatment Significantly Slows Disease Progression in MDX Mice

Authors:

Richard T Hinkle (hinkle.rt.2@pg.com)
Frank R Lefever (lefever.fr@pg.com)
Elizabeth T Dolan (dolan.et@pg.com)
Deborah L Reichart (reichart.dl@pg.com)
Jefferey A Dietrich (dietrich.ja@pg.com)
Kathryn E Gropp (ropp.ke@pg.com)
Robert I Thacker (thacken@email.uc.edu)
Jeffrey P Demuth (demuth.jp@pg.com)
Paula J Stevens (stevens.pj@pg.com)
Xiaoyan A Qu (qu.ax@pg.com)
Alex R Varbanov (varbanov.ar@pg.com)
Feng Wang (wang.f@pg.com)
Robert J Isfort (isfort.rj@pg.com)

Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2007

Author’s response to reviews: see over
February 23, 2007

Dr. Chrissie Kouremenou  
Senior Assistant Editor  
*BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*

Dear Dr. Kouremenou:

We have revised our manuscript entitled “*Corticotropin Releasing Factor 2 Receptor Selective Agonist Treatment Significantly Slows Disease Progression in mdx Mice*” by R.T. Hinkle, F.R. Lefever, E.T. Dolan, D.L. Reichart, J.A. Dietrich, K.E. Gropp, R.I. Thacker, J. Demuth, P. Stevens, X.A. Qu, A. Varbanov, F. Wang and R.J. Isfort as suggested by the reviewers. The specific revisions are as follows:

**Reviewer: Jill Rafael-Fortney**
1. The myofiber cross-sectional area measurement is a direct measurement of myofiber cross-sectional area derived from approximately 165 myofibers/diaphragm/animal for every animal in all treatment groups. This was not a calculated myofiber cross-sectional area. We have noted this in the appropriate area of the methods section.
2. We have changed the spelling of corticotrophin in the title.
3. We have changed the term myocyte to myofiber in the manuscript.
4. We have modified the methods section to clarify that 3 month old animals were used in experiment 1 and 2 month old animals were used in experiment 2. We agree with the reviewer that the difference in age probably accounts for the difference in force generation between the control mdx groups in the 2 different experiments.
5. We have provided a figure legend for figure 2 and have clarified the origin of the two pictured samples.
6. We have included the temperature of the tissue bath.

**Reviewer: Jeffrey Chamberlain**
1. We have changed the introduction to more accurately reflect the deterioration that occurs in mdx mouse hearts as they age.
2. We also were puzzled by this change but have not consistently observed it in other experiments (data not shown). Thus we believe this is a minor change that is not consistently observed, and probably results from experimental variation.
3. We have corrected the typo.

Dr. Kouremenou, we would like to thank you and the reviewers’ for your helpful review of our manuscript. We hope that with the changes we have made, our manuscript is now ready for publication in *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders*.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Isfort, Ph.D.  
Research Division  
Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals  
Mason Business Center  
8700 Mason-Montgomery Road