Author’s response to reviews

Title: Thrombospondin-1 Null Mice are Resistant to Hypoxia-induced Pulmonary Hypertension

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Dear Dr. Reviewer's comments:

The number of experimental animal in the group and sub-group is not clear, please describe it in detail. If the number is too small, any definitive conclusions could not clarified. More data should be needed to get this conclusion.

Authors response:

The methods section now reads:

Animals: WT 129/SV male mice from Charles River Laboratories (Wilmington, MA) weighting 20-25g were placed in a tightly sealed hypoxic chamber and provided with diet and water ad libitum. 129/SV TSP-1-/- mice were a kind gift from Dr. Jack Lawler and were genotyped as previously described [1]. TSP-1-/- mice have been found to be susceptible to lung infection with D Streptoccocus and Pasteurella pneumotropica [1]. To help prevent this infection, a possible confounding factor in this research, the animals were treated with Sulfamethoxazole and Trimethoprim (200/40mg – pediatric suspension- generic brand -50383082416). The only animals that received antibiotics were the TSP-1-/- mice. They only received antibiotics while they were housed prior to hypoxia. Neither WT nor TSP-1-/- mice group received antibiotics while they were exposed to hypoxia. A total of 93 animals were studied with at least 4 per group.