Reviewer’s report

Title: Pirfenidone prevents Acute Kidney Injury in the Rat

Version: 2 Date: 10 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Mark De Caestecker

Reviewer's report:

Everything is OK except I am not convinced by the rat numbers you are using to assess the functional effect of PF after IRI. While I am not questioning your honesty, as this is so different from calculations we have and others have made, you need to provide additional data to support your conclusion that PF improves renal function after IRI in order to avoid the risk of a type 1 statistical error that occurs by chance more commonly in underpowered studies: a) show results from a separate PF study replicating the data from this one; and b) provide the following information so our biostatisticians can assess the calculation: actual baseline and 24 hour post-IRI creatinine clearance values you obtained in your prior cohort, and state the effect size you expected to see.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?

As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

Please note that we may not be able to use your review if no comments are provided.

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Yes

Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?

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No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

**Are you able to assess the statistics?**
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

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There are statistical tests that I am unable to assess and recommend seeking additional advice (please specify which tests these are in the ‘Comments to Editor’ box)

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
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Yes

**Quality of written English**
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