Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevention and reversal of selenite-induced cataracts by N-acetylcysteine amide in Wistar rats

Authors:

Yasaswi Maddirala (yasaswimaddirala@gmail.com)
Shakila Tobwala (tobwalas@mst.edu)
Nuran Ercal (nercal@mst.edu)
Humeyra Karacal (karacalh@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 15 Feb 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

To Whom It May Concern:

We have made additional revisions to our manuscript entitled “Prevention and reversal of selenite-induced cataracts by N-acetylcysteine amide in Wistar rats” by Sri Krishna Yasaswi Maddirala, Shakila Tobwala, Humeyra Karacal and Nuran Ercal, in accordance with the reviewer's comments.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to amend our paper for further consideration for publication in BMC Ophthalmology. We are grateful for the feedback we received, and we anticipate that our modifications will address each issue to the satisfaction of the reviewers. In our responses, the reviewer comments are in quotes, followed by our responses.

Thank you again for your careful reassessment of this manuscript and the opportunity to improve it further.
Responses to reviewer comments:

"1) While assessing your manuscript in-house, we found several instances in the Background, Methods and Discussion, where the text displayed similarities to text found in other previously published articles. These include but are not limited to:


Whilst I appreciate that some of the text overlap was in the methods and replicated from previous studies performed by the authors of this paper, I ask that you please make sure to keep the overlap to a minimum. In the methods section, please always state that the methods have already been described elsewhere and provide a citation. I notice a high degree of overlap in the "Morphological examination of rat eyes" and the "Determination of malondialdehyde (MDA)" sections of the Methods with the Carey et al. paper mentioned above. I ask you to please cite this paper in these sections."
In the Background, Methods, and Discussion sections of this revision, we have reduced the textual similarities, limiting them to instances in which reagents and/or procedural steps must be described in such a manner to accurately convey the method of interest, wherein the previous publication was mentioned and cited. Moreover, in the "Morphological examination of rat eyes" and "Determination of malondialdehyde (MDA)" sections we have summarized the information derived from our previous publication (Carey et al.) and cited it as well.

"2) In the Declarations section, please clarify why ethics approval was not applicable. Please note that experimental research on vertebrates or any regulated invertebrates must comply with institutional, national, or international guidelines, and where available should have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee. If your study was granted an exemption from requiring ethics approval, this should also be detailed in the manuscript (including the name of the ethics committee that granted the exemption and the reasons for the exemption). For more information on our policies regarding research on animals please refer to the following link: http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#research+involving+animals

I notice that in the manuscript you state "“All animal procedures conformed to the ARVO Statement for the Use of Animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research and by the Animal Care and Use Protocol Review Committee at the Missouri University of Science and Technology” so please include this in your ethics statement in the Declarations."

We apologize for the oversight here and have remedied this by placing this statement in the Declarations section.

"3) On the title page, please include the email addresses of all the authors."

Email addresses for all authors have been included on the title page have been included.
"4) Please do not include a cover letter as part of the main manuscript."

The cover letter is not included in this revision of the manuscript.

"5) I notice that the order of the authors upon submitting the manuscript in the system (Yasaswi Maddirala, Shakila Tobwala, Nuran Ercal, Humeyra Karacal) is different to the order of the authors outlined on the title page (Yasaswi Maddirala, Shakila Tobwala, Humeyra Karacal, and Nuran Ercal). Can you please clarify this and confirm which is the correct order?"

The correct order is Yasaswi Maddirala, Shakila Tobwala, Humeyra Karacal, and Nuran Ercal, as stated on the title page of this revision.