Reviewer's report

Title: Continuous Low-Intensity Ultrasound Attenuates IL-6 and TNFα-induced Catabolic Effects and Repairs Chondral Fissures in Bovine Osteochondral Explants

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Anne-Christine Bay-Jensen

Reviewer's report:

I have had the pleasure of reviewing the manuscript entitled: "Continuous Low-Intensity Ultrasound Attenuates IL-6 and TNFα-induced Catabolic Effects and Repairs Chondral Fissures in Bovine Osteochondral Explants" by Neety Sahu; Hendrik J. Viljoen; Anuradha Subramanian, Ph.D. in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders. I found it interesting and informative, both method and result wise. It is obvious that this paper has been in review in other journal, as this is not a first final manuscript - it has been polished already. A concern is the potentially the number of reproduction of the experiments - how robust are these results? But in general I believe that new thoughts and ideas should be appreciated. A specific addition that I would like to propose for clarity is to and N/n in the figure legends. Moreover, another consideration that should be made is the effect of FCS in the medium. The team show that IL6 and TNFα, as well as US, alone are able to repair the cartilage. How much of this can be attributed to the amount of for example TGFβ in FCS? Have the authors tested other supplements that the effect is independent of growth factors?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
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Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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