Author’s response to reviews

Title: Expression of components of the urothelial cholinergic system in bladder and cultivated primary urothelial cells of the pig

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Author’s response to reviews:

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Ref: Manuscript BURO-D-18-00076 ; your request from 23rd March 2018

Dear Editorial manager
Amy Branch-Hollis
on behalf of Tillie Cryer

Thank very much for your query from 23.03.2018 according to the care and welfare of the pigs as well as authority approval for our study to be published and submitted manuscript BURO-D-18-00076 entitled “Expression of components of the urothelial cholinergic system in bladder and cultivated primary urothelial cells of the pig” by D. Leonhäuser, J. Kranz, R. Leidolf, U. Schwantes, J. Geyer and J. O. Grosse.
Your query:

“Thank you for providing details about the care and welfare of the pigs included in your study. However, Please confirm whether your study was submitted to and approved by your institutional ethics committee and include a statement to this effect in your Methods and Ethics approval and consent to participate sections. Please also ensure that the full name of your ethics committee is included in this statement.

If the need for ethics approval was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.”

Our comment:

Our study group received the urinary bladders after the confirmed death of the animals, and after specimens had been taken by the actual study group, so that securing the results of the actual project was not endangered.

All projects for which our study group received urinary bladder material were either notified or approved by our licensing authority, the LANUV (Landesamt für Natur-, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz in Recklinghausen).

The secondary use of tissues or organs from dead animals does not require approval by the authorities according to animal welfare regulations in Germany and the European Union”.

For reference and confirmation we enclose the written official “Animal Welfare Statement” from Professor Rene Tolba, Director of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Sciences and Chairman of Animal Welfare Body, RWTH Aachen International University.

Finally, we made minor revisions (marked in yellow) according the issue of Animal Welfare within the manuscript in the section “Material and Methods” and rewrite the section “Declarations - Ethics approval and consent to participate”.

We think that we could fully answer your query for your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of my co-workers

Joachim O. Grosse
Corresponding author