Author’s response to reviews

Title: The antifibrotic drug pirfenidone inhibits spondyloarthritis fibroblast-like synoviocytes and osteoblasts in vitro

Authors:
Julie Stougaard (jkl@biomed.au.dk)
Søren Lomholt (soren.lomholt@gmail.com)
Pernille Ommen (pernille.ommen.andersen@post.au.dk)
Jens Kelsen (jenskels@rm.dk)
Tue Kragstrup (kragstrup@biomed.au.dk)

Version: 4 Date: 04 Sep 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

Thank you for all your efforts getting this manuscript ready for publication.

Major comments;

Discussion, 4th and 5th paragraph; I do not agree to state "a modest and non-significant suppression" for alpha-SMA expression and "a mild non-significant decrease" for HLA-DR expression. Your data do not show any suppressive effect of PFD on expression of alpha-SMA and HLA-DR.

Answer: I think I understand your comments now. I have now clearly stated that the results showed no significant reductions and only used your recommended wording (“PFD might have mild effect to suppress aSMA and HLR-DR expression” and “PFD might have some mild effect to suppress the expression of these molecules”).

Minor comments;

1. Running title; I would recommend to spell out "pirfenidon" rather than to use the abbreviation.
Answer: We made this change.

2. Key words; Please remove CAPACITY and RECAP.
Answer: We made these changes.
3. Results, 3rd paragraph; Please insert figure 2B, 2D, 2E and 2F in the text you mention in the result section. Also, please double check if the order of figures are consistent with the order you mention in the text in result section.

Answer: Thank you. We made these changes.