

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



July 7, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 19898-Review.doc).

Title: Role of leptin in the progression of psoriatic, rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis

Author: Jessica Mounessa, Iryna Voloshyna, Allison B Reiss

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Rheumatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 19898

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Reviewer 1: *The rheumatoid arthritis section is a bit tedious, so the authors, should present the data in general and not every study in particular.*

RESPONSE: This section of the paper has been edited, so that the studies are now presented in a more organized and general manner.

Reviewer 2: *The review is well written, however it is too long and detailed. Authors should summarized literature data and stress the differences between the three disorders analyzed (OA, RA, PsA) in order to reinforce their conclusion.*

RESPONSE: Please see comment above. Additionally, several sentences describing the differences among the three disorders have been added to the "Conclusions" section.

Reviewer 3: *Need several minor refinements: 1. Statement in first and second sentence of 4th paragraph in introduction require references. 2. Statement in second sentence of last paragraph of introduction requires reference 3. I have concerns about limiting evaluated studies to those in English. Given facile quasi-translation by Google and the international nature of the journal, I'm not sure it is appropriate to discriminate on the basis of language. 4. Finally, authors note discrepancy in reports of effect on disease. It would be very valuable to comment on the source(s) of those discrepancies.*

RESPONSE: 1 and 2: These changes have been made. 3: The publications included in this paper were obtained from numerous international sources. However, the authors of this paper are English-speaking, therefore, only those publications that were available in the English language were tabulated. Sources that were translated from a foreign language to English were certainly mentioned. Further, we have now included and referenced 2 studies in PubMed on RA published in Polish and Japanese (references 44 and 45 respectively) and clearly indicated that we describe these studies based on the English abstracts. 4: We have added our thoughts on the source of discrepancies to the conclusion.

Funds are not available to cover the expense related to CrossCheck. The authors have opted not to use CrossCheck since this is a review article and we have carefully crafted the content in our own words with appropriate citations. The senior author has nearly 30 years of peer-reviewed publications and stands on her reputation.

We thank the reviewers and believe that the manuscript is improved as a result of their input. We hope you will agree, and decide in favor of accepting our report at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Reiss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison B. Reiss, M.D.

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Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

October 14, 2015

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 19898-Review.doc).

Title: Role of leptin in the progression of rheumatoid, and osteo-, and psoriatic arthritis

Author: Jessica Mounessa, Iryna Voloshyna, Amy D Glass, Allison B Reiss

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Rheumatology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 19898

We have carefully reviewed the opinions of the editor-in-chief, Paul Richard Julian Ames, and have addressed his concerns. Here we provide responses to his comments:

1. the authors do not follow any of the accepted strategies for a systematic review (PICO, PRISMA); whether this can be followed by a meta-analysis has to be decided by looking at the data that becomes available after the search – **This is not a systematic review and has not been written as such. In revising our manuscript, we worked closely with Dr. Amy D. Glass (who has been added as an author), an expert in statistics and data analysis. She agrees with the format and methodology of our study's design as a mini-review, and believes that no further statistical analysis is required.**
2. The authors have to formulate specific questions that the sytematic review will answer to: as it stands it is too generic. **Though this study is not designed to be a systematic review (as explained above), we have included clearer questions that we address in the Introduction section.**
3. We are not shown any tables detailing the results and participants of any study. **An additional table including the studies, findings, and number of participants in each study has been included (Figure 2).**
4. It is not clear whether the discussion is built upon the articles retrieved for the systematic review or not. **This is not a systematic review. The articles we discuss are clearly cited and explained. They are further summarized in the table that has been added.**
5. the introduction deals some pathogenetic aspects of psoriatic arthritis (PsA) only, whereas the results section starts dealing with rheumatoid arthritis (RA): this is lack of consistency I sugggest the authors read some literature on systematic reviews and try to improve the quality of this manuscript. **The Introduction has been entirely re-written and re-formatted to address this concern.**

6. The layout should be consistent: in the Introduction the authors can illustrate what leptin is, its physiological function and briefly what role it plays in PsA, RA and OA. Similarly in the result section how many articles dealt with each of these diseases as per their figure, and in the discussion follow the same order. Alternatively, discuss the order of knowledge: that is, if there is more information on leptin and RA than on leptin and PsA and OA, discuss RA first, then the other two associations in decreasing order of pathogenic knowledge. The formatting is now consistent. **A table has been added, as suggested.**

I would like to highlight once more that this is NOT a systematic review, and has not been written as such. We are frustrated with miscommunication that we are meeting from this publishing company and would greatly appreciate it if this could be clarified with your team. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,
Jessica Mounessa
Winthrop University Hospital