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Quebec,
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Dr. Fang-Fang Ji
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Re: World Journal of Pharmacology, manuscript no. 20186

Dear Dr. Ji,

Thank you very much for your e-mail (August 3, 2015), regarding the editorial decision on our manuscript entitled “*Role of MSKs in inflammatory arthritis*”. We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments. We are now submitting a revised and substantially improved version of the manuscript to be considered for publication in the World Journal of Pharmacology.

Our detailed “point-by-point” responses to the reviewer’s comments and our rebuttal are outlined below.

Reviewer 00503082:

This review article deals with the role of MSKs in inflammatory arthritis in the context of various cell types involved in the pathogenesis. I have one major comment: the main body of the paper is consistent with title. However, the summary does not appear to represent the paper. In summary there are a lot of description on CREB, which suggest CREB is mentioned in the text in detail. But in the text, MSK is the focus of attention and description on CREB is scarce. So I suggest authors change the summary in such a way that it represents the main focus of the text.

We agree with the reviewer’s comment. The summary was modified substantially to make it more consistent with the main content of the manuscript.

Reviewer 00467358:

This is a fairly well written article that focuses on MSKs in arthritis. My comments are: 1. The article contains very little information on MSKs in arthritis. The authors should include a section on MSKs in animal models of

arthritis and in human arthritis (if known). 2. A schematic diagram showing the structure of MSKs and their activation would be very useful.

1-We thank the reviewer for his thoughtful comments. Unfortunately, we did a systematic review of the existing literature and found no studies on MSKs in animal models of arthritis. However, a recent study on the response of rheumatoid arthritis patients to biologics suggests that genetic variants in genes of the p38 MAPK cascade, *including MSK1 and MSK2*, may influence the clinical response to anti-TNF therapies. This study is now acknowledged in the revised version of the manuscript (see revised manuscript page 10).

2-As suggested we included a schematic diagram representing the structure of MSKs and the activation steps in the revised manuscript.

Editorial Comments.

- 1- The author contributions are now described in the revised manuscript.
- 2- A conflict-of interest statement has been included.
- 3- Key words are now listed in the revised manuscript.
- 4- A core tip summary presenting the main content of the manuscript has been included.
- 5- We have made an audio file (please see uploaded file)
- 6- PMID and/or DOI citations have been added to the reference list.

Yours sincerely,



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