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ESPS PEER REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS manuscript NO: 11123
Title: TNBS-induced chronic colitis is associated with fibrosis and modulates TGF-β1 and Akt signaling in rats.
Reviewer code: 00033739
Science editor: Ya-Juan Ma
Date sent for review: 2014-05-06 21:23
Date reviewed: 2014-05-25 22:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
[ ] Grade A: Excellent	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	[ ] Accept
[Y] Grade B: Very good	[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing	[ ] Existing	[Y] High priority for publication
[ ] Grade C: Good	[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	[ ] No records	
[ ] Grade D: Fair		BPG Search:	[ ] Rejection
[ ] Grade E: Poor	[ ] Grade D: Rejected	[ ] Existing	[ ] Minor revision
		[ ] No records	[ ] Major revision

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear authors: I enjoyed reading your manuscript entitled "TNBS-Induced Chronic Colitis is associated with Fibrosis and Modulates TGF-Beta-1 and AKT Signaling in Rats." Your manuscript provides an interesting view of the subset of patients with Crohn's disease characterized by fibrotic changes. This is an essential topic as we continue to try to understand Crohn's disease and target therapeutic interventions. Any therapeutic intervention that moderates or reverses fibrosis will be a major step forward in our disease management. Your project does a very nice job simulating fibrosis and characterizing the basic science pathways involved in the fibrotic process. The only major thing I would request that this manuscript provide is a better background on why TNBS was chosen to simulate the Crohn's disease pathway specifically as this is the crux of you present. Specifically characterizing the signaling pathway that leads to colonic and therefore intestinal fibrosis in Crohn's disease. Please address this further. I have also made note of some minor points below. Sincerely yours, Paul Feuerstadt, MD, FACG Minor points Abstract: 1. The methods appears incomplete as there is no mention of the bortezomib intervention in this section. Introduction 1. Page 7, Line 1: The first sentence appears to be missing a word. It probably should read "To obtain a better understanding…" 2. Please expand on bortezomib usage in previous trial in other models of disease. This could be an extra paragraph to justify why this intervention was used. 3. Please expand on the reason the specific technique of colonic fibrosis was chosen to simulate Crohn's disease.

Methods 1. Please expand on bortezomib dosing and utility. Please explain how the dose was chosen and also how the administration route was chosen. 2. Page 11, Line 9: There is an extra space between was hed. I think it should read “Beads were washed… 3. Page 12, Line 7: The word supernatants has a space in it that needs to be deleted. Results: 1. Page 15, Line: 3. Significative should probably be changed to “Significant.” Discussion: 1. Page 16, line 7: Please change to 7 out of 9 rats…. Also, the sentence includes “rats” twice which does not read well. Please consider changing the sentence to read: By contrast, rats are more susceptible to fibrosis and we found that 7 out of 9 rats showed fibrosis in those with chronic TNBS-induced colitis.