



April 10, 2014

Dear JoVE Editorial Board:

Please accept for review our manuscript entitled “A battery of motor tests in a neonatal mouse model of cerebral palsy”. I was contacted by Ola Jachtorowicz, Deputy Director of Editorial – Life Sciences prior to the Society for Neuroscience in Washington DC this past November. We met at the meeting where she asked us to consider submitting this manuscript to JoVE. She has remained in touch with us while we prepared and finalized the manuscript.

This manuscript represents a quantitative battery of motor tests for neonatal mice that can be used to evaluate mouse models of pediatric neurological and neuromuscular disorders, as well as other pediatric diseases. There is a distinct lack of standardized motor tests with which to assess motor behavior in pediatric models of disease, thus making cross-talk between investigators difficult. By combining neonatal motor tests into one document, with a number scoring system to help determine severity and progressiveness of a disease, as well as to determine improvement after treatment, it will allow quantitative documentation of neonatal motor diseases and enable researchers to better communicate results within a single model. In addition, the included scoring sheet will allow baseline deficits to be noted, as well as any changes following treatment or over time.

One of the problems with behavior tests is that the subtle nuances of how to perform a particular test do not translate well with just words or static pictures. By having our manuscript with representative results using our mouse model of cerebral palsy accepted by JoVE, we can demonstrate proper techniques using live neonatal mice and video recording. It will enable researchers to accurately perform each test and strengthen the results so that they can be compared between research groups.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya S. Ferguson".

Tanya S. Ferguson, Ph.D.

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