

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

This letter is to officially inform you of an overlap of the information reported in our manuscript "5'-Amino acid esters of antiviral nucleosides, acyclovir, and AZT are absorbed by the intestinal PEPT1 peptide transporter," by H-k Han, et al., and in the manuscript published by R.L.A. de Vruhe, P.L. Smith, and C-P Lee, Transport of l-valine-acyclovir via the oligopeptide transporter in the human intestinal cell line, Caco-2, *JPET* 286, 1166 (1998). The overlap is with the results published in Figures 6 and 7 of our manuscript on the transport studies in Caco 2 cells and Figure 1 and Table I in the de Vruhe *JPET* publication. We received this information in a draft manuscript from Dr. Philip Smith of SmithKline Beecham and included it in our manuscript with his approval. My laboratory was unaware that these results were being published in the separate manuscript cited above.

The sequence of events that led to this situation is as follows. In 1996, Dr. Smith presented his results on valacyclovir at the Controlled Release Society meeting in Kyoto and we reported our results at the AAPS meeting (H-k Han and G.L. Amidon, Intestinal absorption of valacyclovir, a novel prodrug of acyclovir, in the rat jejunum, *Pharm. Res.*, 13, S-246 (Oct. 1996)). At the Kyoto meeting I discussed our results with Dr. Smith and we agreed, along with Dr. Lee, to publish our results together since we had arrived at this conclusion independently. By the middle of 1997, we were completing our extensive

studies of a variety of nucleoside prodrugs that are substrates for the peptide transporter and in late 1997 we received the manuscript from Dr. Smith. My graduate student, Ms. Hyokyung Han, combined our results with those of Dr. Smith's laboratory into a joint manuscript. The manuscript that we submitted to *Pharm. Res.* was this combined manuscript. Dr. Smith's laboratory had the opportunity to review our manuscript several times during its preparation and agreed to the publication of the material that we included in the *Pharm. Res.* manuscript. It is my understanding that Dr. Lee, the principal author of the *JPET* manuscript, has informed the editors of *JPET* of the overlapping information in the above cited manuscripts. It is also my understanding that you have contacted Dr. Smith and confirmed the above sequence of events.

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