Research article

Inability of Serotonin to Activate the c-Jun N-terminal Kinase and p38 Kinase Pathways in Rat Aortic Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells
Amy KL Banes*1, Robert D Loberg2, Frank C Brosius III2 and Stephanie W Watts1

Address: 1Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA and 2Department of Internal Medicine-Nephrology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

E-mail: Amy KL Banes* - banesamy@msu.edu; Robert D Loberg - rloberg@med.umich.edu; Frank C Brosius - fbrosius@med.umich.edu; Stephanie W Watts - wattss@msu.edu
*Corresponding author

Abstract

Background: Serotonin (5-HT, 5-hydroxytryptamine) activates the Extracellular Signal-Regulated Kinase (ERK)/ Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) pathways, in vascular smooth muscle cells. Parallel MAPK pathways, the c-Jun N-terminal Kinase (JNK) and p38 pathway, are activated by stimulators of the ERK/MAPK pathway. We hypothesized that 5-HT would activate the JNK and p38 pathways in rat vascular smooth muscle cells.

Results: Results were determined using standard Western analysis and phosphospecific JNK and p38 antibodies. No significant activation by 5-HT (10^-9 – 10^-5 M; 30 min) of the JNK or p38 pathways, as measured by protein phosphorylation, was observed in any of these experiments. These experiments were repeated in the presence of the serine/threonine phosphatase inhibitor okadaic acid (1 uM) and the tyrosine phosphatase inhibitor sodium orthovanadate (1 uM) to maximize any observable signal. Even under these optimized conditions, no significant activation of the JNK or p38 pathways by 5-HT was observed. Time course experiments (5-HT 10^-5 M; 5 min, 15 min, 30 min and 60 min) showed no significant activation of JNK after incubation with 5-HT at any time point. However, we detected strong activation of JNK p54 and p46 (5- and 7 fold increases in bands p54 and p46, respectively over control levels) by anisomycin (500 ng/ml, 30 min). Similarly, a JNK activity assay failed to reveal activation of JNK by 5-HT, in contrast to the strong stimulation by anisomycin.

Conclusion: Collectively, these data support the conclusion that 5-HT does not activate the JNK or p38 pathways in rat vascular smooth muscle cells.

Background

The mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) family consists of three commonly recognized subgroups: the extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK), the c-jun-N-terminal kinase (JNK), also known as the stress activated protein kinase (SAPK) and the p38 kinase. While many actions have been associated with activation of the ERK pathway, two particular functions of interest to our laboratory are mitogen-stimulated growth [1] and smooth muscle cell contraction [2]. Of the three MAPK path-
ways, activation of the ERK pathway and the intracellular signaling pathways associated with ERK activation are the best delineated. Known activators include reactive oxygen species [3,4], growth factors [5], and agonists of G-protein coupled receptors [6,7]. The two other MAPK pathways, the JNK and p38 pathways, have been implicated in a variety of cellular functions. Known activators of the JNK and p38 pathways in vascular smooth muscle cells include reactive oxygen species [8,9], mechanical strain [10,11], hypoxia [12] and a variety of cytokines and growth factors. The mechanisms of many cellular functions of the JNK and p38 pathways are not yet clearly defined. The JNK pathway is involved in apoptosis [13], arginine vasopressin-induced increases in smooth muscle α-actin in vascular smooth muscle cells [14] as well as in phosphorylation of transcription factors c-jun, ATF-2 and ELK-1 and phosphorylation of Na-K-2Cl cotransporter [15]. The p38 pathway has been implicated in apoptosis [16], neointimal hyperplasia after vascular injury [17] as well as angiotensin II-induced contraction in vascular smooth muscle [18].

Recently, it has been noted that the JNK and p38 pathways can be activated by G-protein coupled receptor agonists, notably angiotensin II, in vascular smooth muscle cells [19,20]. In cardiac myocytes, both the p38 and JNK pathways have been activated by endothelin-1 (ET-1) and the α1 adrenergic receptor agonist phenylephrine [21]. The ability of the JNK and p38 pathways to be activated by the same agonists of G-protein coupled receptors which activate the ERK pathway led to the investigation of 5-HT as a possible activator of the JNK and p38 pathways. 5-HT, acting via the 5-HT2A receptor, is a known activator of the ERK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells [2,22]. In these studies we tested the hypothesis that 5-HT would activate the JNK and p38 pathways in rat aortic vascular smooth muscle cells.

Results

The ERK pathway
In agreement with previously published studies from our lab, 5-HT caused a concentration-dependent activation of the ERK pathway (figure 1). This activation occurs maximally at five minutes of stimulation and returns to basal levels by thirty minutes [23]. This time course of activation is consistent with that of other G-protein coupled receptors.

The p38 pathway
The p38 pathway has demonstrated a different time course of activation via G-protein coupled receptors than the ERK pathway [24]. Using the time point (30 min) at which angiotensin II demonstrates maximal stimulation of the JNK pathway we performed a concentration response curve (10⁻⁹ – 10⁻⁵ M) to 5-HT in vascular smooth muscle cells. Western analysis using phosphospecific antibodies was used to measure activation the p38 pathway. A total or non-phosphospecific antibody was used to ensure equal loading of p38 protein. After thirty-minutes of incubation with 5-HT (10⁻⁹ – 10⁻⁵ M), there was no enhanced phosphorylation of p38 (figure 2, bottom). In contrast, incubation with anisomycin (500 ng/ml) induced significant phosphorylation of p38 (2-fold above basal). These data suggest that 5-HT does not activate the p38 pathway in rat vascular smooth muscle cells despite the ability of other agonists to activate the pathway in these cells.

The JNK pathway
Figure 3 shows that thirty minutes of incubation with 5-HT (10⁻⁹ – 10⁻⁵ M) resulted in a trend towards a modest increase in phosphorylation of the p46 JNK isoform. This trend, however, was not statistically significant. In contrast, incubation with anisomycin (500 ng/ml) induced significant phosphorylation of p38 (2-fold above basal). These data suggest that 5-HT does not activate the p38 pathway in rat vascular smooth muscle cells despite the ability of other agonists to activate the pathway in these cells.

To confirm that thirty minutes was an optimal time point for observing 5-HT-induced phosphorylation of JNK, we
next performed a time course of JNK phosphorylation after exposure to 5-HT in rat vascular smooth muscle cells. At no time point (5 min, 15 min, 30 min and 60 min) did 5-HT (10^{-5} M) enhance JNK phosphorylation above basal levels (figure 4). These data fail to support a role for 5-HT-induced activation of the JNK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells.

To demonstrate that a G-protein coupled receptor agonist could activate the JNK pathway in our vascular smooth muscle cells, we incubated the cells with angiotensin II (10^{-9} – 10^{-5} M) for thirty minutes. Angiotensin II (10^{-8} – 10^{-5} M) produced a significant increase in the level of JNK phosphorylation (figure 5). The authors speculate that the differences in the level of phosphorylation of the p46 JNK isoform in the vehicle treatment group maybe due to differences in the JNK expression over time in cultured cells. The cells used in these experiments were of a later passage than those used for the 5-HT incubation studies. These data, in addition to that obtained with anisomycin, demonstrate that in these vascular smooth muscle cells the JNK pathway can be activated.

Due to the trend toward increased phosphorylation of both the p46 and p54 JNK isoforms by 5-HT, we next performed JNK activity assays to determine whether 5-
HT had any significant effect on kinase activity. This assay was chosen to ensure that the western analyses used were sufficiently sensitive to detect changes in the activation of the JNK pathway. There was no significant difference in the levels of activity at any concentration of 5-HT \((10^{-9} - 10^{-5} \text{ M})\) after thirty minutes of incubation in vascular smooth muscle cells (figure 6). In contrast, anisomycin (500 ng/ml, 30 min) produced a significant increase in JNK activation (approximately 2-fold above basal). These data, in combination with the above findings, do not support a role for 5-HT in the activation of the JNK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells.

**Conclusions**

5-HT is an activator of the ERK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells. In contrast, 5-HT appears to be unable to activate the JNK and p38 pathways in vascular smooth muscle cells. No observable changes in activation, as measured by phosphorylation status, were seen at any of the 5-HT concentrations \((10^{-9} - 10^{-5} \text{ M})\) or time points (5 min, 30 min, 60 min and 2 hr) examined. The data from the kinase activity assay also demonstrated no activation of the JNK pathway by 5-HT.

The mitogen-activated protein kinase family is associated with many cellular functions. The ability of 5-HT to activate the ERK pathway is consistent with 5-HT's role as a mitogenic stimulus and vasoconstrictor. Several vasoactive G-protein coupled agonists, including angiotensin II and endothelin, have also been shown to activate the ERK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells [6,21]. These same hormones also activate the JNK and p38 pathways. These agonists have different time course and concentration profiles for activation of the different MAPK pathways. ERK activation by angiotensin II and 5-HT occurs at relatively lower agonist concentrations and within five minutes of stimulation [19,23]. The activation of p38 and JNK pathways by angiotensin II and endothelin occurs at higher concentrations of agonist and requires a longer incubation with the stimulus [18,19,25]. There are data which also suggest that different signal transduction pathways are utilized for the different pathways [25–27]. This differential activation of MAPK pathways is most likely due to the role that each plays in the cell. The ERK pathway is associated with growth whereas the p38 and JNK pathways are "stress response" pathways.

In light of data for the other G-protein coupled receptor agonists, the inability of 5-HT, also G-protein coupled receptor, was initially surprising. While 5-HT has never been shown to increase activation of either the p38 or JNK pathways, it has been linked to ERK activation. The 5-HT\(_{2A}\) receptor is the primary serotonergic receptor which couples to activation the ERK pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells [28]. 5-HT's inability to activate the JNK and p38 pathways may be due to a lack of coupling of the 5-HT\(_{2A}\) receptor signaling pathway to the components in the JNK and p38 pathways.

It has recently been suggested that G-protein coupled receptors with PDZ domains, SH2-containing domains and PTB domains participate in protein-protein interactions with partners other than G-proteins, such as Grb2 and JAK2, which may allow these receptors to bypass the G-proteins and utilize other signaling cascades [29]. This ability of G-protein coupled receptors to modulate the signal cascade used, independent of G-proteins, suggests...
a broader range of interaction with signaling components. This may provide one explanation for the 5-HT activation of the ERK and its lack of effect on the JNK and p38 pathways.

Another possible explanation for the differential activation of the MAPK pathways by 5-HT may relate to the varied roles 5-HT in different cell types and the multiple receptors which mediate these roles. When examining the physiological role of 5-HT in other cell types, in regards to apoptosis and cellular responses to stress, 5-HT is generally anti-apoptotic [30–32]. In particular, in neuronal cells the 5-HT2A receptor is upregulated under conditions of cellular stress and is anti-apoptotic [33,34]. The anti-apoptotic effects of 5-HT maybe due to scavenging of reactive oxygen species [35] as well as stimulation of the ERK pathway which results in inhibition of a caspase-3-like enzyme [32]. There are no currently published studies examining the role of 5-HT as an anti-apoptotic factor in vascular smooth muscle cells. It may be that under stressful conditions, such as a disease state or a loss of nutrients which occurs in a state of ischemia, the smooth muscle cells upregulate a new complement of 5-HT receptors [33–35]. These new receptors maybe involved in activation of the ERK, p38 and JNK pathways, but the studies presented here do not directly address this issue. They do, however, support the conclusion that the 5-HT2A receptor does not activate the p38 or JNK pathways in rat vascular smooth muscle cells.

Methods

Aortic smooth muscle cell culture

Vascular smooth muscle cells were derived from the aorta of male Sprague-Dawley rats by an explant method previously described [36]. The smooth muscle cells were plated on to P-100's and grown to confluence. The cells were used between passages 2 and 9. The cells were positively stained for smooth muscle α-actin (Oncogene Research Products, Boston, MA; Fluorescein labeled goat anti-mouse secondary antibody, Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR) with each new isolation.

Aortic smooth muscle cells experiments

Cells (P-100 plates) were switched to physiological salt solution (4 ml) [consisting of (in mmol/L) NaCl, 103; KCl, 4.7; KH2PO4, 1.18; MgSO4 • 7H2O, 1.17; CaCl2 • 2H2O, 1.6; NaHCO3, 14.9; dextrose, 5.5; and CaNa2EDTA, 0.03] for one hour prior to addition of agonist. At this time, okadaic acid (1 µM), sodium orthovanadate (1 µM) and PD098059 (10 µM) or vehicle (0.1–0.5 %DMSO) was added and allowed to equilibrate for one hour. PD098059, an inhibitor of MEK activation, was included in all experiments, except the ERK activation experiments, to increase the specificity of the phospho-JNK antibody which recognizes the 44 and 42 kDa bands as well as bands at 54 and 46 kDa. In the presence of PD098059, the bands at 42 and 44 kDa were significantly reduced. Each dish was incubated with one agonist concentration [5-HT (10-9 – 10-5 M), angiotensin II (10-9 – 10-5 M) or anisomycin (500 ng/ml)] for thirty minutes. Plates were placed on ice and incubation buffer aspirated. Plates were washed with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline containing sodium orthovanadate as a tyrosine phosphatase inhibitor (10 mM sodium orthovanadate, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM Na3VO4, pH 7.0). Five hundred microliters of supplemented RIPA lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EGTA, 0.1% Triton X-100, 1 mM PMSF, 10 ug/ml aprotinin, 10 ug/ml leupeptin, 1 mM sodium orthovanadate) were added to each dish and cells were harvested with a rub-
Ser policeman. Lysates were centrifuged at 14,000 g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Protein concentrations of the resulting supernatant were measured using the BSA method (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). The gels were also stained with Gel Code Blue® (Pierce, Rockford, IL) to validate equal loading of protein.

Immunoblotting protocol
Supernatant (4:1 in denaturing loading buffer, boiled 5 minutes) was loaded, separated on 10% denaturing SDS-polyacrylamide gels, and transferred to Immobilon-P membranes. Membranes were blocked for 3–4 hours in Tris buffer saline + Tween-20 (0.1%; TBS-T) containing 4% chick egg ovalbumin and 0.025% sodium azide. Rabbit anti-phospho Erk MAPK (1:5000, Promega, Madison, WI), rabbit anti-phospho JNK MAPK (1:5000, Promega, Madison WI), rabbit anti-phospho p38 MAPK (1:1000, Cell Signaling, Beverly, MA), mouse anti-total Erk (1:5000, Zymed, San Francisco, CA) rabbit anti-total JNK MAPK (1:5000, Santa Cruz BioTechnologies, Santa Cruz, CA) or rabbit anti-total p38 MAPK (1:1000, Cell Signaling, Beverly, MA) were incubated with blots overnight (4°C). Following washes, secondary antibody linked to horseradish peroxidase [anti-rabbit (1:2000, Zymed Laboratories, S. San Francisco, CA) or anti-mouse (1:7500, Amersham, Arlington Heights IL)] was added for one hour and incubated with blots at 4°C. Enhanced chemiluminescence was performed using standard reagents (Amersham Laboratories, Arlington Heights, IL).

Kinase activity assay protocol
Primary vascular smooth muscle cell preparations were treated with agonists as described above. They were then lysed in a protein kinase lysis buffer [50 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1.5 mM MgCl2, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM sodium vanadate, 50 mM sodium fluoride, 20 mM betaglycerophosphate, 10% (vol/vol) glycerol, 1% (vol/vol) Triton X-100, and protease inhibitors (1 mM PMSF, 1 ug/ml pepstatin A1, 1 ug/ml leupeptin, and 1 ug/ml aprotinin)]. Equal protein amounts of each cell lysate (usually 100 ug) were incubated for 3 h at 4°C in the presence of purified GST-c-Jun-(1–79) bound to glutathione-agarose beads (2.8 ug GST-c-Jun/ul beads) as previously described [38]. Beads were washed 2 times with HNTG buffer (HEPES 20 mM pH7.5, NaCl 150 mM, Triton X-100 0.10%, glycerol 10%) followed by an additional washing with HNTG buffer + 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA). Samples were then centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 2 min and the supernatant was discarded. The pellets were washed 2 times with HNTG buffer and 2 times with JKAW buffer (HEPES 25 mM, glycerol 10%, MgCl2 20 mM, Na3VO4 0.1 mM, beta-glycerophosphate 12.5 mM, EGTA 0.5 mM, NaF 0.5 mM). The pellets were then resuspended in 50.5 µl JKAW reaction buffer containing 20 µCi [-32P] ATP and 50 µM unlabeled ATP. After 30 min at 37°C, reactions were terminated by the addition of 8 ul SDS loading buffer, samples were boiled and separated by SDS-PAGE. Proteins were transferred to stabilized nitrocellulose membranes and the bands corresponding to phosphorylated c-Jun were counted by a phosphorimager (Storm model 860, Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale CA).

Data analysis
Cell experiments were performed three or four times with each repetition of the experiment being performed in cells from explants derived from different animals. Thus, experiments are representative of responses of 3 or 4 different animals. Unpaired Student’s t tests were used where appropriate in comparing two group responses and a one way ANOVA test was used when comparing responses of three or more groups (p < 0.05 considered statistically significant). Phosphorimager data was captured using Image Quant 5.1 software (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). Quantitation of all band densities was performed using the public domain NIH Image (v.1.62).

Acknowledgements
This work was supported by NIH grants HL58489 (SWW), HL60156 (FCB) and a grant from the American Heart Association Award 0010194z (AKLB).

References
1. Niculescu F, Badea T, Rus H: Sublytic C5b-9 induces proliferation of human aortic smooth muscle cells: role of mitogen activates protein kinase and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase. Atherosclerosis 1999, 142:47-56.
2. Watts SW: Serotonin activates the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway in vascular smooth muscle: use of the mitogen-activated protein kinase inhibitor PD98059. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 1999, 279:1541-1550

3. Lee S, Wang W, Finlay GA, Fanburg BL: Serotonin stimulates mitogen-activated protein kinase activity through the formation of superoxide anion. Am J Physiol – Lung Cell and Mol Physiol 1999, 277:SB532-539

4. Greene EL, Houghton O, Collinson G, Garnovskaya MN, Nagit S, Sajad T, Bheemanathini V, Grewal JS, Paul RV, Raymond JR: SH2+7A receptors stimulate mitogen-activated protein kinase via H2O2 generation in rat renal mesangial cells. Am J Physiol Renal Physiol 2000, 278:F650-F656

5. Lorimer IA, Lavictorie SJ: Activation of extracellular-regulated kinases by normal and mutant EGFR receptors. Biochim Biophys Acta 2001, 1531:1-9

6. McDuffie JE, Motley ED, Limbird LE, Malea QA: 5-hydroxytryptaminemediated activation of p42 mitogen-activated protein kinase activation in bovine aortic endothelial cell cultures. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol 2000, 35:398-402

7. Watts SW, Florion JA, Monroe KM: Dissociation of angiostatin II stimulation of activated mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase from vascular contraction. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 1998, 286:1438

8. Kyaw M, Yoshizumi M, Tsuchuya K, Kimura K, Tamaki T: Antioxidants inhibit JNK and p38 activation but not ERK 1/2 activation by angiostatin II in rat aortic smooth muscle cell cultures. J Hypertension 2001, 24:251-261

9. Yoshizumi M, Abe J, Haenderle J, Huang Q, Berk B: Src and cas-mediated JNK activation but not ERK1/2 and p38 kinases by reactive oxygen species. J Biol Chem 2002, 275:11706-11712

10. Li C, Hu Y, Storm G, Wick G, Xu Q: Ras/rac-dependent activation of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase in smooth muscle cells stimulated by cyclic strain stress. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol 2000, 20:E1-9

11. Li C, Hu Y, Mayr M, Xu Q: Cyclic strain stress-induced mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) phosphorylation of 1 expression in vascular smooth muscle cells is regulated by ras/rac MAPK pathways. J Biol Chem 1999, 274:25273-25280

12. Lin Z, Weinberg JM, Merritt S, Holzman LB, Brosius FC III: Increased GLUT1 expression prevents hypoxia-induced apoptosis and c-JunNH2-terminal kinase activation in vascular smooth muscle cells. Am J Physiol 2000, 278:E598-E566

13. Soh Y, Jeong KS, Lee B, Ba M, Kim YC, Song BJ: Selective activation of the c-Jun N-terminal protein kinase pathway during 4-hydroxyanenol-induced apoptosis of PC12 cells. Mol Pharmacol 2000, 58:542-551

14. Garat C, Van Putten V, Reafet ZA, Dessev C, Han SY, Nemenoff RA: Induction of smooth muscle α-actin in vascular smooth muscle cells by arginine vasopressin is mediated by c-Jun Amino-terminal kinases and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase. J Biol Chem 2000, 275:22537-22543

15. Klein JD, Lamintia T, O'Neill: JNK is a volume-sensitive kinase that phosphorylates the Na-K-2Cl cotransporter in vitro. Am J Physiol Cell Physiol 1999, 277:C425-C434

16. Diep QN, Touyz RM, Schiffrin EL: Docosahexaenoic acid, a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α ligand, induces apoptosis in vascular smooth muscle cells by stimulation of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase. Hypertension 2000, 36:851-855

17. Ohashi N, Matsumori A, Furukawa Y, Ono K, Okada M, Iwasaki A, Miya moto T, Nakano A, Sasa yama S: Role of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase in neointimal hyperplasia after vascular injury. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol 2000, 20:2521-2526

18. Meloche A, Landry J, Huot J, Houle F, Marceau F, Giasson E: p38 MAP kinase pathway regulates angiostatin II-induced contraction of rat vascular smooth muscle. Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol 2000, 279:H741-751

19. Schmitz U, Ishida T, Ishida M, Suprasitpitchat J, Hasham MI, Pelech S, Berk BC: Angiostatin II stimulates p21-activated kinase in vascular smooth muscle cells: role in activation of JNK. Circ Res 1998, 82:1271-1278

20. Kusuhara M, Takahashi E, Peterson TE, Abe J, Ishida M, Han J, Ulevitch R, Berk B: p38 kinase is a negative regulator of angiostatin II signal transduction in vascular smooth muscle cells: effects on Na+/H+ exchange and ERK1/2. Circ Res 1998, 83:824-83

21. Clerk A, Michael A, Sugden PH: Stimulation of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway in neonatal rat ventricular myocytes by the G protein-coupled receptor agonists, endothelin-1 and phenylephrine: a role in cardiac myocyte hypertrophy? Cell Biol 1998, 142:523-535

22. Banas A, Florion JA, Watts SW: Mechanisms of 5-hydroxytryptamin2A receptor activation of the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway in vascular smooth muscle cells. J Pharmacol and Exp Ther 1999, 291:1179-1187

23. Watts SW, Yeum CH, Campbell G, Webb RC: Serotonin stimulates protein tyrosyl phosphorylation and vascular contraction via tyrosine kinase. Vasc Res 1996, 33:288-298

24. Akamatsu M, Aota S, Suwa A, Ueda K, Amachi T, Yamada KM, Akiyama SK, Kioka N: Vinexin forms a signaling complex with sos and modulates epidermal growth factor-induced c-Jun N-terminal kinase/stress-activated protein kinase activities. J Biol Chem 1999, 274:35933-35937

25. Adayer T, Ela bner Y, Bruce M, Cook S: Differential regulation of extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase 1 and Jun N-terminal kinase 1 by Ca2+ and protein kinase C in endothelin-stimulated Rat-1 cells. Biochem J 1997, 321:795-804

26. Nagao M, Yamauchi J, Kaziro T, Itoh H: Involvement of protein kinase C and src family tyrosine kinase in Gq/Gi-1-induced activation of c-Jun N-terminal kinase and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase. J Biol Chem 1998, 273:22892-22898

27. Schmitz U, Themmes K, Beier I, Wagner W, Sachindis A, Sing RD, Vetter H: Angiostatin II-induced stimulation of p21-activated kinase is mediated by rac1 and NCK1. J Biol Chem 2001, 276:22003-22010

28. Watts SW, Yang P, Banes A, Base M: Activation of ERK mitogen-activated protein kinase proteins by vascular serotonin receptors. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol 2001, 37:519-527

29. Mariniisien MJ, Gutkind JS: G-protein-coupled receptors and signaling networks: emerging paradigms. Trends Pharmacol Sci 2001, 22:368-376

30. Betten A, Dahlberg C, Hermodsson S, Hellstrand K: Serotonin protects NK cells against oxidatively induced functional inhibition and apoptosis. Leukoc Biol 2001, 70:65-72

31. Schaper C, Zhu Y, Kouklie C, Sveriges K: Angiostatin 5-HT1A receptors reduces apoptosis after transient forebrain ischemia in the rat. Brain Res 2000, 883:41-50

32. Schaper C, Zhu Y, Kouklie C, Sveriges K: Angiostatin stimulation of the serotonin1A receptor causes suppression of anoxia-induced apoptosis via mitogen-activated protein kinase in neuronal HN2-5 cells. Neurochem 1999, 72:1489-1496

33. Ahlemeyer B, Glaser A, Schaper C, Semkova I, Krieglstein J: The 5-HT1A receptor agonist Bay X 3702 inhibits apoptosis induced by serum deprivation in cultured neurons. Eur J Pharmacol 1999, 370:211-216

34. Singh JK, Chromy BA, Boyers MJ, Dawson G, Banerjee P: Induction of the serotonin1A receptor in neuronal cells during prolonged stress and degeneration. J Neurosci Res 1999, 68:2361-2372

35. Banas A, Watts SW: Enhanced contraction to 5-HT is not due to “unmasking” of 5-HT1B receptors in the mesenteric artery of the DOCA-salt rat. Hypertension 2001

36. Florion JA, Watts SW: Integration of mitogen-activated protein kinase activation in vascular 5-hydroxytryptamin2A receptor signal transduction. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 1998, 284:346-355

37. Barancik M, Huan P, Schaper W: Okadaic acid and anisomycin are protective and stimulate the SAPK/JNK pathway. Cardiovasc Pharmacol 1999, 34:183-190

38. Fan G, Merritt SE, Kortman M, Shaw PE, Holzman LB: Dual leucine zipper-bearing kinase (DLK) activates p46 SAPK and p38 mapk but not ERK2. J Biol Chem 1996, 271:24788-24793