

[P-28]**Silica Induces Nuclear Factor-kB Activation through TAK1 and NIK in Rat2 cell line**

Young Lim^{1,5}, Hae-Yun Nam, Suk-Joo Rha², Young-Hoon Kim², Yong-Yeun Cho⁴, Ki-Hwa Yang⁴, Kyoung-Ah Kim^{1,5}, Kweon-Haeng Lee^{2,3}

Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine¹, Research Institute of New Drug Development², Department of Pharmacology³, Department of Preventive Medicine⁵, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, 505 Banpo-dong, Socho-ku, Korea Institute of Toxicological Research, Korea Food and Drug Administration⁴, Seoul, Korea

Silica has been known to be a factor in acute cell injury and chronic pulmonary fibrosis. In Rat2 fibroblasts, silica induced the activation of NFkB, which plays a crucial role in regulating the expression of many genes involved in the subsequent inflammatory response. In addition, we observed that TAK1 and NIK were involved in silica-mediated NF-kB activation in Rat2 cells. The dominant negative mutant forms of TAK1 and NIK inhibited the silica-induced NF-kB activation in Rat2 cells. Furthermore, we demonstrated that endogenous TAK1 is phosphorylated in silica-stimulated Rat2 cells. These results indicate that TAK1 functions as a critical mediator in the silica-induced signaling pathway.

This work was partially supported by grant (01-PJ3-PG6-01GN07-0004), Good Health R & D Project, Ministry of Health Welfare, Republic of Korea