

(BioRad Herts, UK) according to the manufacturer's recommendations and expressed as pg  $\beta$ gal/mg total protein. Data were then normalized, by calculating the relative ratio compared to the no peptide control group, which was arbitrarily set to one.

### Statistical analysis

All values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. for convenience. Individual data points are shown as diamonds, with the mean indicated by a bar. *N* refers to the number of animals used. The independent-sample Student *t*-test was used after confirmation of normal distribution (Figure 2) or Wilcoxon sign-rank test (Figures 3 and 5). The null hypothesis was rejected at *P* < 0.05.

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