We are pleased to respond to the excellent review by Christophe Lamy, which focused on our recent studies in *The Journal of Neuroscience* characterizing a novel neural-glial interaction in the nucleus of the solitary tract (NST). As discussed, our study demonstrated that vagal afferent inputs activate NST astrocytes via AMPA receptors. Lamy provides a clear and focused synopsis of our work with several compelling suggestions for subsequent studies. He also presents some well thought out alternative mechanisms that could account for our observed AMPA receptor mediated increases in astrocytic intracellular calcium levels. Furthermore, his discussion of the astrocyte-to-neuron lactate shuttle theory is well-taken, and presents another compelling neural-glial interaction worthy of further study.

Lamy also points to Ballanyi et al. (1993) as the first report of vagally mediated astrocyte activation in NST, yet some care should be taken in comparing these two reports. Ballanyi et al. did not have the advantage of using astrocyte-specific vital dye, thus they report vagally mediated changes in membrane potential in “8 presumed glial cells.” These cells cannot be characterized as astrocytes based purely on their non-neuronal membrane physiology.