Author's response to reviews

Title: Melanocortin-1 receptor, skin cancer and phenotypic characteristics (M-SKIP) project: study design and methods for pooling results of genetic epidemiological studies

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Version: 2 Date: 18 May 2012
Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Thank you for your email. Here are the answers to your questions:

1) Please clarify whether you have ethical approval and external funding for your study. If you do, please send evidence of your approvals to us by email. Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

ANSWER: The present study is a pooled analyses of 39 previously published studies on MC1R, skin cancer and phenotypic characteristics. Each study received ethical approval by its own Ethic Committee. We asked each participant investigator to send us, along with the data, a signed statement declaring that the original study was approved by an Ethic Committee and that study subjects provided a written consent to participate in the original study. We added a new statement in the paper with information on ethical approval in the “Data collection and creation of the standardized dataset” section, “The identification of data sets and data collection” sub-section, at the end of the third paragraph.

The present study received external funding from the Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC, http://www.airc.it/english/home.asp), as stated in the
Acknowledgement section. I am sending the letter of acceptance received from AIRC by email.

2) Please also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

ANSWER: Up to now there are no manuscripts under submission elsewhere and based on this study protocol because the statistical analysis of the data is still ongoing.

I hope that the present version of the manuscript will be suitable for publication on your journal. If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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