Author's response to reviews

Title: Genetic and biochemical markers of hydroxyurea therapeutic response in sickle cell anemia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Cover letter

Dear Editor

Upon review of the first questions raised by reviewers, as well as their current reviews, the authors believe that the current manuscript version meets the requisites requested and that the doubts were satisfactorily answered. Thus, there is no need of a new point-by-point response.

The major concern of the study was about the statistic analysis, however according to the statistic expert, we offered clear answers to the doubts, this way the scientific paper is interesting and acceptable for publication. Indeed, we had some limitations in the study, e.g. small sample size, due to the strict inclusion criteria reported in previous revision. In this way, we emphasized in the article the importance of further studies with larger sample size to better address our hypothesis (see red color highlights in the revised manuscript).

However, it is important to note that a reviewer had already highlighted that in other studies like this, the number of enrolled in the study is quite similar.

In general, we would like to reiterate that the experimental design has been rigorously developed to answer a relevant question and of importance in its field. We also reinforce the Umberto Moscato's "Report on the study and conclusions on scientific Article" that well pointed the merits of the work.

Certain of the relevance of this work, and based on the assessment of the statistic expert, well how current reviewers' comments, we hope that the revised manuscript can be considered suitable for publication.

Respectfully,
D.G.H. da Silva.