Author’s response to reviews

Title: Founder mutations in BRCA1/2 are not frequent in Canadian Ashkenazi Jewish men with prostate cancer

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To the Editors,

We would like to thank again the editors of BMC Medical Genetics as well as the reviewers for the prompt evaluation of our manuscript. Please find a final version of our manuscript posted on this website, ready for publication.

We have taken Dr. Rennert's advice and added the age at diagnosis and the Gleason score of our mutation carriers in the text of our article so that this information will be available for future reference to anyone interested. Dr. Goldgar also expressed some concern over the wisdom of removing 2 Sephardic prostate cancer cases from our study. We always intended for our study to examine solely Ashkenazi Jewish individuals, since this is the ethnic group where most previous work on mutation frequencies has been done, in cases or controls. Patients of Sephardic descent had originally been included by mistake. In addition, while the mutation 185delAG is indeed also found in the Sephardic population, the frequency of the mutation is not necessarily the same in both groups, which would render comparison between cases and controls problematic. Since we were not likely to recruit a large enough number of Sephardic cases to analyze as a sub-group, we thought it preferable to exclude them entirely from this particular study as a matter of principle from the beginning.

We would like to thank both reviewers for their contribution in making this manuscript a clear, comprehensive report.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hamel
on behalf of the authors