Author's response to reviews

Title: Linkage disequilibrium mapping of a breast cancer susceptibility locus in the RAI gene region

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Version: 3 Date: 4 March 2008

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Response to review 2 by Jan Lubinski
1. We have clarified the Background section, and modified the Results extensively, including rearranging the figures with a view to improve readability.
2. We have modified and lengthened the description of the cohort considerably, and included the requested information in the Materials and Methods section.
3. The second paragraph of the Results section now provides the rationale behind the trivial names of the SNPs.
4. The errors have been corrected. The legends have been expanded in the way requested.
5. The main reason for the difference in numbers is problems with the DNAs. This was aggravated by the fact that the cases and controls were individually matched. As a consequence of the latter we lost a pair of samples each time one individual DNA malfunctioned. A sentence to that effect has now been included in the materials and methods.
6. We thank the reviewer for bringing an inconsistency to our attention. The polymorphism RAI-3¿3 should rightly be RAI-3¿d3, as it is an indel. The error has now been corrected. This also resolves the confusion over how ABI3100 was used to type the polymorphism. Also, the requested information has been included.

Response to review 3 by Colin Parmer

As requested we have now included all information about genotype counts in Table 4. The values have also been updated to include a new and expanded analysis.

Finally, of our own accord, we have included a paragraph in the Discussion comparing aspect of breast cancer caused by the RAI region with that caused by the BRCA genes, and updated the references to include several newer items.