Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Characteristics of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy clarified through internet-assisted laboratory surveillance in Japan

**Authors:**

Kazuo Nakamichi (nakamich@nih.go.jp)
Hidehiro Mizusawa (h-mizusawa.nuro@tmd.ac.jp)
Masahito Yamada (m-yamada@med.kanazawa-u.ac.jp)
Shuji Kishida (s-kisida@biscuit.ocn.ne.jp)
Yoshiharu Miura (ymiura@cick.jp)
Toshio Shimokawa (shimokawa@yamanashi.ac.jp)
Tomohiko Takasaki (takasaki@nih.go.jp)
Chang-Kweng Lim (ck@nih.go.jp)
Ichiro Kurane (kurane@nih.go.jp)
Masayuki Saijo (msaijo@nih.go.jp)

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 3 October 2012

**Author's response to reviews:** see over
October 3, 2012

Editorial Office,
BMC Neurology

RE: BMC Neurology MS 1775837774755998
Characteristics of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy clarified through internet-assisted laboratory surveillance in Japan. Kazuo Nakamichi, Hidehiro Mizusawa, Masahito Yamada, Shuji Kishida, Yoshiharu Miura, Toshio Shimokawa, Tomohiko Takasaki, Chang-Kweng Lim, Ichiro Kurane and Masayuki Saijo.

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit the revised version of manuscript (MS 1775837774755998). We have modified the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments. A list of changes against each point is appended below. We thank the reviewers for their thoughtful review, and believe that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in BMC Neurology.

Yours sincerely,

Masayuki Saijo, MD, Ph.D.

Director, Department of Virology 1,
National Institute of Infectious Diseases,
1-23-1 Toyama, Shinjuku, Tokyo 162-8640, Japan.
Phone: +81-3-4582-2660. Fax: 81-3-5285-1169.
E-mail: msaijo@nih.go.jp
Responses to reviewers’ comments

BMC Neurology MS 1775837774755998: Characteristics of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy clarified through internet-assisted laboratory surveillance in Japan.

The followings are responses to each point. In the revised manuscript, modifications are marked in red.

Reviewer #1 (Dr. Pasquale Ferrante)

Reviewer's report:
The authors built an internet-assisted laboratory surveillance program in order to define a nationwide survey of PML, improving the knowledge about the epidemiology and the clinical features of the pathology. The conclusions of the paper are very interesting and up-to-date, the design of the database is well done and the program seems useful for the national clinicians, patients and scientists. The article can be accepted after some minor revisions:

[Comment 1]
Methods: The labeling molecules of the three probes used for the real time assays should be reported.

> We have supplemented the labeling molecules of the three probes according to the reviewer’s comment (Lines 160-161).

[Comment 2]
Lines 190, 197, 205, 237, 241: please avoid “ca” and report the exact percentage.

> We have checked the term “ca” throughout the manuscript and stated the exact percentages of values (Lines 185, 191, 192, 198, 202, 233, 236, 244, 246)
[Comment 3]
Results: since the authors summarize the results in 4 tables, the Results section can be shortened.

> We have omitted several sentences in the original manuscript to shorten the section (Lines 192, 198, 199, 236, 239, 247-249).

[Comment 4]
Discussion: please shorten the section.

> We have omitted the discussion about rituximab therapy (3rd paragraph in the original manuscript) to shorten the section (Lines 290).

Reviewer #2 (Dr. Robert Zivadinov)
Reviewer's report:
The results of this study suggest that the internet-assisted laboratory surveillance program might be a useful strategy for collecting precise real-time information on PML. The current database provides important background information for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with risk factors for PML. The study is well conducted and provides a novel information to the literature.