Author's response to reviews

Title: Identification of an autoantibody panel to separate lung cancer from smokers and nonsmokers

Authors:

William N Rom (william.rom@nyumc.org)
Judith D Goldberg (jd.goldberg@nyumc.org)
Doreen Addrizzo-Harris (doreen.addrizzo@nyumc.org)
Heather N Watson (heather.watson@nyumc.org)
Michael Khilkin (michael.khilkin@nyumc.org)
Alissa K Greenberg (alissa.greenberg@nyumc.org)
David P Naidich (david.naidich@med.nyu.edu)
Bernard Crawford (bernard.crawford@nyumc.org)
Ellen Eylers (ellen.eylers@nyumc.org)
Daorong Liu (dliu@scripps.edu)
Eng M Tan (emtan@scripps.edu)

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

REVIEWER: The point stating whether the protein was purified using native or denaturing technologies was not addressed as both come under the term ‘according to manufacturers instructions’. Please include.

RESPONSE: Denaturing technologies since this was a recombinant protein purification with a urea elution under acidic conditions. The original paper was published in 1999 and is cited #27 in the text now with “protein denaturing technologies.”

REVIEWER: Were the cancer samples taken at the time of diagnosis, it is still not stated, if they weren’t how long after were they taken? And was the stage still the same?

SEE PAGE 5 LINES 11-13. An additional group of 22 lung cancer cases were identified upon referral through a thoracic surgeon; phlebotomy was performed on the day of surgery and stage and histology performed during the hospitalization.