Author's response to reviews

Title: Periostin is up-regulated in high grade and high stage prostate cancer

Authors:

Verena Tischler (verena.tischler@usz.ch)
Florian R Fritzsche (florian.fritzsche@usz.ch)
Peter J Wild (peter.wild@cell.biol.ethz.ch)
Carsten Stefan (cstephan6@yahoo.com)
Hans-Helge Seifert (hans-helge.seifert@hbb-kliniken.de)
Marc-Oliver Riener (Marc-Oliver.Riener@uk-erlangen.de)
Thomas Hermanns (thomas.hermanns@usz.ch)
Ashkan Mortezavi (ashkan.mortezavi@usz.ch)
Josefine Gerhardt (josefine.gerhardt@usz.ch)
Peter Schraml (peter.schraml@usz.ch)
Klaus Jung (klaus.jung@charite.de)
Holger Moch (holger.moch@usz.ch)
Alex Soltermann (alex.soltermann@usz.ch)
Glen Kristiansen (glen.kristiansen@usz.ch)

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Dear Rachel Neilan

Thank you very much for reviewing our revised manuscript. Please find our answer to your question below.

“Before we proceed further, please can you confirm if you obtained the patients' consent during your study? If so, a statement to this effect should be included in the manuscript. If consent was not required or obtained, please can you provide details about this.”

Answer: The patient cohort consists of two different cohorts from Berlin (years 1990-2001) and Zuerich (years 1993-2006). At the Charité, Berlin, the patients consent to scientific use of their tissues upon admission unless this explicitly prohibited by the patient, in which case they were not considered further for scientific analysis. The Ethics Committee in Zurich has approved the following paragraph: “Critical is that an informed consent of the concerned patients/relatives cannot be obtained. Because of the partly bad prognosis of the studied tumour types during the period recruited for the project (years 1993-2006) it is likely that the majority of the patients already passed away or that the information on the right on objection of the patients alive or of the relatives of patients passed away is impossible (lack of contact address). In addition, the required efforts due to the high number of patients are considered disproportionate.”

Concordant with this ethics approval we did not obtain the patients' informed consent.
We hope that we could satisfactorily answer your last inquiry and would be very pleased if the manuscript now conforms to your requirements for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Verena Tischler, MD                                      Glen Kristiansen, MD