Author’s response to reviews

Title: Merging transcriptomics and metabolomics - advances in breast cancer profiling

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Version: 3 Date: 8 September 2010

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor Dr Oscar M Rueda

We are grateful for the opportunity to publish our manuscript “Merging transcriptomics and metabolomics - advances in breast cancer profiling” in BMC Cancer. We have formatted the manuscript as was suggested and have included the two points from reviewer 2, see below for details. (All reviewers’ comments are given in italic and our response is given below after a bullet point. A check mark indicates that the change has been made, and there is no need for commenting.)

**Formatting changes**

*Minor revisions* (we can make these changes for you, although it will speed up publication of your manuscript if you do them while making the major changes above)

- **Introduction:** rename Background.
- **Materials and methods:** please change to Methods.
- **References:** please provide the full citation details for reference 6.
- **References:** please provide the full citation details for reference 11.
  - Note that this reference is now updated to the recently published manuscript of Moestue et. al. in BMC Cancer.
- **Tables:** please remove the visible vertical lines from your tables.
- **Tables:** the table title should appear above the table and should be only one sentence long. Please place any other text as a legend (or key), which should appear below the table.
Response to comments from reviewer 2

The authors have addressed my concerns and I can now recommend the manuscript for publication.

Discretionary Revisions
The authors may wish to add the following information:
How was the HR-MAS spectral data scaled (e.g., divided by the sum of points)?.

- The spectral data was scaled by mean normalization. We have added this information on page 11.

The authors explain why the spectral data was used for sub-grouping in response to my third comment, it may be useful to the reader to have these reasons included somewhere in the manuscript.

- We have added a sentence about this in the discussion, on page 18.

Additional minor change to manuscript

Note that missing data for ER and PgR receptor from one of the patients (1555) has now been retrieved from the patient records, and was found to be ER+/PgR+ as expected. We have updated Table 1 accordingly, and removed the comment about this in the manuscript.

On behalf of the authors,
Yours sincerely,

Eldrid Borgan

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