Author’s response to reviews

Title: Expression of Phosphorylated Raf Kinase Inhibitor Protein (pRKIP) is a Predictor of Lung Cancer Survival

Authors:

Sara Huerta-Yepez (shuertay@yahoo.com)
Nam K Yoon (namkeunyoon@gmail.com)
Angeles Hernandez-Cueto (parher1989@yahoo.com.mx)
Veï Mah (ymah@mednet.ucla.edu)
Clara M Rivera-Pazos (monsserivera@hotmail.com)
Devasis Chatterjee (DChatter@Lifespan.org)
Mario I Vega (marioi@correo.unam.mx)
Erin L Maresh (emaresh@mednet.ucla.edu)
Steve Horvath (shorvath@mednet.ucla.edu)
David Chia (dchia@mednet.ucla.edu)
Benjamin Bonavida (bbonavida@mednet.ucla.edu)
Lee Goodglick (lgoodglick@mednet.ucla.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 3 May 2011

Author’s response to reviews: see over
April 20, 2011

Dr Russell D Petty
BMC Cancer

Dear Dr. Petty:

We have revised and resubmitted our manuscript entitled: **Expression of Phosphorylated Raf Kinase Inhibitor Protein (pRKIP) is a Strong Predictor of Lung Cancer Survival.** The comments by the reviewers were extremely helpful and we have address all concerns presented.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lee Goodglick, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Reviewer #1: Dr. Karen Reckamp

We thank Dr. Reckamp for her helpful suggestions. Below we address her comments.

Major Revisions

1. The Reviewer points out that the word "progression" might be a little misleading as we are mostly considering "survival". Through out the revised manuscript we have now replaced many of the terms "progression" with the exact process being discussed (e.g., survival, outcome and/or metastases).
2. As suggested by the Reviewer, we do not use the term "disease free survival". Instead we state either "survival" or "death due to disease"
3. As appropriately recommended by the Reviewer, we have removed the words "powerful" and "strong" from the manuscript's title and from other statements in the paper.
4. We have now corrected the Figure labels in the manuscript body as pointed out by the Reviewer.

Minor Revisions

1. We have removed the additional Figure 3
2. To the best of our knowledge, we have corrected any grammatical errors
Reviewer #2: Dr. Fumiya Hongo

We thank Dr. Hongo for his helpful suggestions. Below we address his comments.

1. As suggested by the Reviewer, we have corrected all references to the Figures on Pages 11, 12 and 13.
2. The Reviewer is correct that we observed no overall difference in RKIP or pRKIP expression levels between non-malignant and NSCLC cells. This is not necessarily an unusual finding for such studies. Nevertheless, this is one reason that we do not necessarily consider RKIP or pRKIP diagnostic markers in this setting. Moreover, this is also why we proceeded to examine whether expression levels in the tumor cells themselves, were predictive of outcome. In the revised manuscript, this addressed on pages 10/11.