Author's response to reviews

Title: ICOS gene polymorphisms are associated with sporadic breast cancer: a case-control study

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Dear Editors,

Please find enclosed our manuscript entitled “ICOS gene polymorphisms are associated with sporadic breast cancer: a case-control study”, which we would like to submit for publication in BMC Cancer.

The etiology of breast cancer is complicated, in which the genetic factor plays an important role. ICOS provides positive signal to enhance T cell proliferation, and its abnormal expression can disturb the immune response and entail an increased risk of cancer. To investigate whether polymorphisms in ICOS are associated with sporadic breast cancer susceptibility and progression in Han women of Northeast of China, This case-control study including 609 patients and 619 healthy controls was conducted and our study first established that SNPs in the ICOS gene may affect breast cancer risk and prognosis.

The manuscript is an original work and has not been submitted or is under consideration for publication in other journals. All the listed authors have seen the manuscript and approved the submission to BMC Cancer. The authors have no conflicts of interest.

This study was approved by the ethical committees of Harbin Medical University and the Third Affiliated Hospital.

Best Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Dianjun Li

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