Author's response to reviews

Title: Protein Secretion in Human Mammary Epithelial Cells following HER1 Receptor Activation: Influence of HER2 and HER3 Expression

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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RE: BMC Cancer MS: 1117246558431675

Dear Editors of BMC Cancer,

We would like to resubmit an original research article entitled “Protein Secretion in Human Mammary Epithelial Cells following HER1 Receptor Activation: Influence of HER2 and HER3 Expression” for publication. This article has been previously resubmitted, but the reviewers had additional comments. We have responded to all the comments, as detailed on the following pages. We have also included a copy of the manuscript with the requested changes highlighted in blue type.

Best Regards,

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Response to the Reviews of BMC Cancer MS: 1117246558431675

We would like to thank the reviewers for their careful review of our manuscript. Our response to each point is given below. The original comment by the reviewer is italicized. Changes to the manuscript are marked in blue in the revised version.

Response to Reviewer #1

1- Page 19 line16 there is a typo “PI3/Akt” should be “PI3K/Akt”

This typo is now corrected.

2- Last phrase of page 22, I suggest that the authors include: “These results further indicate that PDGF secretion, at least in this cell context, is not a (...)”

As requested, we have included “at least in this cell context” into this sentence.

Response to Reviewer #2

1- There is a difference between the two versions regarding Figure 8b, without indication for it in the Author’s response. Moreover, in the revised version according to the graph, it seems that AKT inhibition significantly affects MMP2 secretion, while the text is left unchanged stating: ”MMP2 secretion is not affected by either MAPK/Erk or PI3K/Akt pathway, since the inhibitors of these pathways have no clear effect on MMP2 secretion (Figure 8B).” (page 19)

We thank the reviewer for pointing out our mistake regarding Figure 8B. We mistakenly uploaded an outdated version of this figure in the last submission. The result presented in that wrong plot only included a subset of our MMP2 data when PI3K/Akt signaling pathway is inhibited. After we included all the data from five replicates (as described in the figure caption), the statistical analysis showed that MMP2 is not affected by PI3K/Akt pathway (page 19). Hence, the version of Figure 8b in our first submission is correct, and has been properly inserted in the current revision.