Author's response to reviews

Title: FGFR4 Gly388Arg polymorphism contributes to prostate cancer development and progression: A meta-analysis of 2618 cases and 2305 controls

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Thank you for your decision email on Jan.13, 2011, in which you encouraged us to revise our manuscript (MS: 5404498735274970) entitled “FGFR4 Gly^{388} Arg polymorphism contributes to prostate cancer development and progression: A meta-analysis of 2618 cases and 2305 controls”.

Here we submit the revision of our manuscript with highlighted changes and our response, point by point, to reviewers’ comments and suggestions.

We would like to thank the editors and the reviewers for their invaluable comments and recommendations that have greatly improved the quality of this manuscript. We hope our responses are satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Ming Chen
Enclosed
Response to the reviewers’ comments and suggestions on MS: 540498735274970 submitted to BMC cancer by Xu et al.

Reviewer3

The authors have chosen to ignore a comment that I described as a basic statistical error. One cannot claim no effect on the basis of a p value above 0.05. The authors simply stated that, yes, it is possible to do this, and repeated their assertion of no effect in African Americans. This is an unequivocally erroneous conclusion that needs to be amended before the paper would be acceptable for publication. A suitable conclusion would be that, although the effect in African Americans was in the same direction as for other groups, and although the effect size was very similar, the difference was not statistically significant.

Response: Thanks for the reviewer’s advice. We found that we made an unequivocally erroneous conclusion when stratifying the analysis for race. In deed, the effect in African Americans was in the same direction as for other groups although the difference was not statistically significant. So we made the changes in the results section as follows “Although the effect in African-Americans was in the same direction as for other groups, the difference was not statistically significant (Arg\textsuperscript{388} and Gly\textsuperscript{388} comparison: OR = 1.15, 95% CI: 0.73-1.82; homozygote comparison: OR = 2.17, 95% CI: 0.20-23.14; dominant genetic model: OR = 1.11, 95% CI: 0.66-1.86 and recessive genetic model: OR = 2.21, 95% CI: 0.18-26.83).” And we also deleted the related comments in the discussion section.