Author's response to reviews

Title: Novel anti-HER2 monoclonal antibodies: synergy and antagonism with tumor necrosis factor-alpha

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Marinette Lacson  
On behalf of Dr. Valerie Speirs,

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find our manuscript by Ceran et al. entitled "Novel anti-HER2 monoclonal antibodies: synergy and antagonism with tumor necrosis factor-alpha" that has been revised one more time, according to referee no. 2 latest request. We highlighted changes made when revising the manuscript and correctly formatted it.

Reviewer 2 has requested a minor essential revision which the authors have not addressed citing lack of spaced and loss of focus of their article if this information is included. I agree with this to some extent however the authors need to include a sentence at an appropriate point in the discussion which makes it clear to readers that they have considered the combinational studies suggested by the reviewer and what their preliminary data shows and that this will be the focus of further work.

As requested, we added the following text into the discussion section (second paragraph), "Based on the synergy between Trastuzumab and Pertuzumab directed to different epitopes of HER2 [24], we performed studies to test combinatory anti-growth effects of our anti-HER2 antibodies with Trastuzumab on SK-BR-3 cells. Preliminary data suggested a synergy between them, raising the possibility that our antibodies may be combined with Trastuzumab or Pertuzumab to enhance anti-cancer activity. This will be the focus of further work".

Sincerely,

Mehmet Ozturk, PhD