Author's response to reviews

Title: Elevated levels of circulating microRNA-200 family members correlate with serous epithelial ovarian cancer

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Author's response to reviews:

Editor
BMC Cancer

14th December 2012

Dear Sir,

Ms. Ref. No: MS: 2122805585811564

Thank you for the re-assessments of our original manuscript titled “Elevated levels of circulating microRNA-200 family members correlate with serous epithelial ovarian cancer” submitted to BMC Cancer. Below are the reviewers’ comments (in italics) and a point-by-point description of how these comments have been addressed. These changes (additions and deletions) have been highlighted in yellow in the revised resubmitted manuscript.

Reviewer 1
No additional comments

Reviewer 2
“…they should have discussed the importance of independent cross validation in Discussion.”

The following changes have been made to the text:

Results / Correlation of serum miRNA levels with clinical characteristics / page 11

Original
… Leave one out cross validation was performed for this model (miR-200b + c) and gave an identical AUC value…
Revised
.... In the absence of a separate validation cohort, leave one out cross validation was performed for this model (miR-200b + c) and gave an identical AUC value...

Discussion / page 12
Original
....This ROC-AUC was confirmed by leave one out cross validation analysis.

Revised (the original text replaced by the text below)
In the absence of a second independent set of samples, the predictive performance of miR-200b + miR-200c was tested by leave one out cross validation analysis and resulted in an identical ROC-AUC. While a second set of independent samples may be preferable for validation testing, cross validation testing overcomes the recognized difficulty of obtaining additional cohorts.

Thank you for considering our resubmission of this manuscript for publication in BMC Cancer.

Yours sincerely,

Viive Howell PhD