To the BMC Cancer editorial board,

We would again like to thank for considering our work for publication in BMC Cancer. In accordance with our previous correspondence from the editorial board, we have revised our description of animal experiments in the Material and methods section to comply with ARRIVE standards as follows:

“Tumor xenografts. Four- to five-week old female homozygous athymic nude mice (Hsd-nude-Foxn1nu, approximately 20 grams each) were purchased from Harlan Laboratories. After 10 days quarantine, each mouse was identified by numbered ear tags and randomly assigned to two caged groups: Vec-468 control group (n=6) and 4A2KD-468 group (n=6). The GFP-expressing 4A2KD-468 and Vec-468 cells were cultured to 80% confluence in 150 mm2 tissue culture plates, then collected and divided into aliquots containing 5x105 cells with Matrigel suspension. Each mouse was inoculated once by injection of cell/matrigel suspension (200µl) into the inguinal mammary fat pad with 5x105 cells of its experimental group. After day 10, tumors were imaged for GFP fluorescence using the Maestro Flex small animal imager (day 0), and then weekly for five weeks thereafter to measure tumor progression as indicated by fluorescence intensity. During imaging, mice were anesthetized (intraperitoneal injection with ketamine/xylazine) to immobilize the animals during image acquisition. Images were spectrally unmixed and fluorescence totals reported. Upon termination of the study, mice were euthanized by exposure to CO2 exposure at slow flow rates to minimize distress. All animals were housed in the Animal Care Facility on-site and received humane care according to the guidelines of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of Xavier University of Louisiana.”

Again, thank you for considering our work for publication in this BMC Cancer.

Sincerely,
Christopher Williams, PhD
Assistant professor of pharmacology