Author's response to reviews

Title: Partial loss of Smad signaling during in vitro progression of HPV16-immortalized human keratinocytes

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Version: 3 Date: 12 September 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
September 11, 2013

Dr. Dafne Solera
Executive Editor
BMC Cancer

Dear Dr. Solera:

We were delighted to learn that our manuscript, entitled “Partial loss of Smad signaling during in vitro progression of HPV16-immortalized human keratinocytes” has been provisionally accepted for publication in BMC Cancer, pending clarification that the human neonatal foreskins used to isolate normal HKc were used following ethical approval and with patient’s or guardian’s consent.

The studies we describe in the manuscript used human keratinocytes isolated from neonatal foreskins collected in a non-identified fashion from a local hospital during elective routine circumcision of neonate boys. The protocol for the collection and use of these specimens was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board as non human subjects protocol (PHA #2008-10) because we used non-identified surgical tissue, which would otherwise have been discarded as medical waste. Therefore, under current NIH guidelines for the use of human subjects in research, this protocol is considered “non human subjects”. Informed consent is not required and would actually not be appropriate, as that would imply identification of the donors’ families.

In the revised manuscript, we have added a statement in the first sentence of the Materials and Methods (highlighted in yellow) to clarify this point: “Foreskin specimens, derived from elective routine circumcision of neonate boys, were collected in a non-identified fashion from a local hospital. The protocol for foreskin tissue collection and use (PHA #2008-10) was reviewed by the Institutional Review Board which determined that this protocol does not constitute human subjects research because it uses non-identified discard surgical tissue.”

We hope the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in BMC Cancer

Sincerely,

Kim E. Creek, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair and Professor