Author's response to reviews

Title: Role of malignant ascites on human mesothelial cells and their gene expression profiles

Authors:

Isabelle Matte (isabelle.matte@usherbrooke.ca)
Denis Lane (denis.lane@usherbrooke.ca)
Dimcho Bachvarov (dimtchho.batchvarov@crhdq.ulaval.ca)
Claudine Rancourt (claudine.rancourt@usherbrooke.ca)
Alain Piche (alain.piche@usherbrooke.ca)

Version: 2 Date: 3 September 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Please find enclosed a copy of our revised manuscript entitled “Role of malignant ascites on human mesothelial cells and their gene expression profiles” for consideration in *BMC Cancer*.

The editor has pointed out that it was difficult in our study to discern the number of ascites samples used. He also mentioned that two sample of ascites might be too small to draw conclusions. We have clearly stated in p. 6 and p. 10-11 the numbers of malignant ascites used in our study (n=2). We also justify why we used only two malignant ascites. Previous studies from our group showed that different malignant ascites from high grade serous ovarian cancer (HGSOC) all shared similar features and have similar cytokine profiling and as such they can be considered homogenous fluids. The two HGSOC malignant ascites used in this study have been described previously and we chosen because they are representative of this subgroup of malignant ascites. We considered that testing additional HGSOC ascites would have lead similar results and would have just been more costly. We limited our study to HGSOC ascites because they are the most clinically relevant as the majority of women presenting with ovarian cancer have HGSOC.

We appreciate the careful review of our manuscript provided by the Editors and the reviewers.

Yours sincerely,

Alain Piché M.D, M.Sc.
Professor
Dept Microbiologie et Infectiologie
Université de Sherbrooke
Québec, Canada