Author’s response to reviews

Title: Podocalyxin is a marker of poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor-in-chief,

Please find enclosed our two manuscripts, “Podocalyxin is a marker of poor prognosis in colorectal cancer” (BMC cancer (MS 1304654640995689) and “A comparative study of two PODXL antibodies in 840 colorectal cancer patients”, which we would like you to evaluate for publication as two research articles in BMC Cancer. The manuscripts have been approved by all authors and have never been published, and are not under the consideration for publication elsewhere.

In the first study we have evaluated the prognostic role of an interesting stem cell marker podocalyxin using a novel in-house monoclonal antibody. It was recently reviewed for publication in BMC cancer (MS 1304654640995689). We thank the referees for their valuable comments. We have responded to all their comments. Reviewer 2, professor Konstantinos Konstantopoulos recommended acceptance, while the other reviewer Marius Nap demanded us to either include data on comparison of our own in house monoclonal antibody with a commercially available polyclonal antibody or to submit in parallel separate study describing comparison of two antibodies.

We have now completed this case-by-case comparison of two antibodies in our large patient cohort and we see that the staining pattern differs, they recognize different group of patients with a poor prognosis, and combining the two antibodies gives an even better prognostic result compared to either antibody alone.

The first study, that you reviewed is very extensive, since we had to include description of production of the monoclonal antibody as well as its characterization. Including also all comparative data would make the report too extensive. Therefore, we hope that our results could be reported as two parallel articles. We believe our findings would appeal to the readership of BMC Cancer. We sincerely hope our manuscripts are suitable for publication in BMC Cancer.

Yours sincerely,

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Enclosed:
- Manuscript 1
- Figure 1-2 for manuscript 1
- Additional files 1-3 for manuscript 1
- Manuscript 2
- Figures 1-4 for manuscript 2
- Answer to referees comments (MS 1304654640995689)