Author's response to reviews

Title: Co-expression of putative stemness and epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition markers on single circulating tumour cells from patients with early and metastatic breast cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Editorial Board,

Please find attached our manuscript entitled “Co-expression of putative stemness and epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition markers on single circulating tumour cells from patients with early and metastatic breast cancer” by Maria A Papadaki, Galatea Kallergi, Zafeiris Zafeiriou, Lefteris Manouras, Panayiotis A Theodoropoulos, Dimitris Mavroudis, Vassilis Georgoulias, Sofia Agelaki, for consideration for publication in “BMC” journal.

In this paper we provide strong experimental evidence for the co-expression of two putative stemness and epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) markers (ALDH1 and TWIST, respectively) at the single CTC-level in patients with early and metastatic breast cancer. Furthermore we developed a new methodology for the evaluation of ALDH1 protein expression levels and TWIST subcellular localization using the ARIOL system. Our results have shown a differential expression of these markers in CTCs derived from early and metastatic breast cancer patients, suggesting that CTCs bearing specific phenotypes could predominate during disease progression.

I remain at your disposal for any additional information you may request.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Galatea Kallergi