Author's response to reviews

Title: Estrogen Receptor, Progesterone receptor, Interleukin-6 and Interleukin-8 are Variable in Breast Cancer and Benign Stem/Progenitor Cell populations

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Dafne Solera
Executive Editor
BMC-Cancer

Dear Dr. Solera,

Thank you for your consideration of our research article entitled “Estrogen Receptor, Progesterone receptor, Interleukin-6 and Interleukin-8 are variable in Breast Cancer and Benign stem/progenitor cell populations”. Breast cancer specimens are stained by immunohistochemistry for expression of the estrogen and progesterone receptors. Expression of these receptors guides the use of hormone therapies in treatment; however 30% of women with estrogen receptor positive breast cancer, who have taken tamoxifen for 5 years, still experience recurrent disease. One hypothesis as to why this happens is that, tamoxifen therapy eliminates the bulk of the tumor cells, but leaves behind stem cells that are estrogen receptor negative. This manuscript is the first to report mRNA and protein expression in uncultured human breast tumor and benign stem/progenitor cells. This had been accomplished using novel PCR technologies. The results highlight the importance of diagnostics on freshly isolated stem cells to facilitate clinical care decisions.

This is a transfer from Breast Cancer Research from whom no revisions were requested. However, a few revisions were made to cite the protein PCR technology and refer to it as proximity ligation assay, which is the original name for the technology.

We think the manuscript fits well with the goals of BMC-Cancer, that of using basic science studies to guide cancer care, we hope you agree.

All authors are in approval of this submission.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication.

Sincerely,

SuEllen Pommier, Ph.D.
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Director of Resident Research, Department of Surgery
Division of Surgical Oncology
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