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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Author's response to reviews: see over
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BMC-Cancer

Dear BMC-Cancer Reviewers,

Thank you for your review 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”.

I have made every attempt to address the concerns of the reviewers. The following changes were made in response to the editorial points and queries:

1. **Please can you include the full name of the institutional review board which approved your study.**

   This information has been included on page 3 of the manuscript in the Methods section. It now reads:
   
   This study was approved by the Oregon Health & Science University institutional review board. Benign and malignant specimens, as well as clinical data, were obtained with informed written consent in accordance with an IRB approved protocol.

2. **Please include funding sources for your study in your acknowledgements.**

   This information has been included in the Acknowledgement Section. It now reads:

   Acknowledgements: The authors would like to thank the patients who agree to be part of this study, and Dr. Megan Troxell and the department of Pathology at OHSU for breast tissue specimens. This study was supported by the Janet E. Bowen Foundation.

3. **Please can you clarify whether you obtained consent to publish specific clinical details from each patient, otherwise please anonymize table 1/figure 7.**

   We did receive approval to include clinical data. This information has been added to the IRB statement. As an aside, the numbers used in Table 1 and throughout the manuscript are anonymous. They are arbitrary numbers given to the patients.
4. **Table 1 should not be uploaded as a separate file, but uploaded within the main manuscript file after your reference section.**

Table 1 has been included in the manuscript.

I would like to sincerely thank the reviewers for their comments. A paper always can be improved and I have done my best to integrate their suggestions. I have made every attempt to fix the typographical errors and in rereading the manuscript have made some improvements with respect to syntax.

Sincerely,

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