Author’s response to reviews

Title: Human desmoid fibroblasts: matrix metalloproteinases, their inhibitors and modulation by Toremifene

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Dear Dr Hodgkinson,

Thank you for your letter of 8 November. In reply to your request for explanation on fig. 4 I would like to clarify the following:

Fig. 4 panel A shows collagen zymography of media from normal, desmoid fibroblasts and desmoid fibroblasts plus toremifene. The samples degraded the substrate producing a band of 52 KDa, while trypsin produced no bands. Since trypsin is active against the gelatin zymogram, we can conclude that the band represents a collagenase. The experiments with trypsin were conducted before sending the manuscript to BMC Cancer, but the trypsin control was cropped. When we repeated the experiments shown in what are now fig. 3 (collagenase activity) and fig. 5A (Western blot analysis of MMP-1), we mistakenly wrote we also repeated the experiment in fig. 4A.

My co-authors and I hope the paper is now in a suitable format for publication and are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Paola Locci