Author's response to reviews

Title: Angiogenesis in Cancer of Unknown Primary: Clinicopathological study of CD34, VEGF and TSP-1.

Authors:

Vasilis Karavasilis (vkaravasil@panafonet.gr)
Vasiliki Malamou-Mitsi (vmalamou@cc.uoi.gr)
Evangelos Briasoulis (ebriasou@otenet.gr)
Elena Tsanou (etsanou@cc.uoi.gr)
Evangelia Kitsou (ebriasou@cc.uoi.gr)
Haralambos Kalofonos (kalofon@med.upatras.gr)
George Fountzilas (fountzil@med.auth.gr)
Theodore Fotsis (thfotsis@cc.uoi.gr)
Nicholas Pavlidis (npavlid@cc.uoi.gr)

Version: 2 Date: 5 February 2005

Author's response to reviews:

1st Reviewer (Frank Greco)
Changes made according to suggestions:
* Abstract (Conclusion, first sentence): the word central was deleted and the paragraph was rephrased accordingly.
* Discussion, (last paragraph, second sentence): the phrase "This data add up to the understanding of biology of these tumors" was deleted and paragraph was rephrased per suggestion.
* Discussion section: (asked to address the heterogeneity issue in CUP)
  o Page 7, last paragraph: text was added: CUP patients have in general a brief life expectancy with a median survival approximately of 3-9 months. (citation) It must be emphasized that CUP diagnosis applies to a heterogeneous group of patients who are usually grouped together in biological and therapeutic studies to obtain statistically meaningful results. However several patients fare better and enjoy longer survival and within this more favorable prognostic subgroup, unique subsets, such as young patients with midline tumors and women with peritoneal carcinomatosis or isolated axillary adenocarcinoma, have a distinct clinical biology compared to others are also classified as unknown primary cancer....

2nd Reviewer (Kostas Papazisis)
Changes made according to requested Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Introduction,
   a. (paragraph 3, and sentence1): text was added: "Up to now, there have been no useful prognostic factors other than the classic pathologic and laboratory criteria and immunohistochemical detection of various factors did not add any prognostic value. (citations) Moreover, as new therapies targeting angiogenesis emerge expression of crucial angiogenesis factors that can be therapeutically targeted is of major interest to the oncologists who deal with CUP clinical research. (citation) We were prompt to..."
   b. (paragraph 3, and sentence 4): the phrase "to our knowledge this is the first study on angiogenesis in CUP to appear in medical literature" is changed to: In a recently published study vascular endothelial growth factor, and CD34, factors were of no prognostic value in adenocarcinoma of unknown primary.
2. Table 3, column 4, and line 3: a typing error was corrected (59 microvessels/mm2).
3. Table 4, columns 4&5, line 2: a typing error was corrected (Low (<4) and High ([greater than or equal to]4).