Author's response to reviews

Title: SNP-SNP Interactions in Breast Cancer Susceptibility

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Author’s response to reviews:

October 24, 2005

Dr. Peter Newmark
Editor-in-Chief
BMC-series titles

Dear Dr. Newmark,

Please find enclosed online copy of our manuscript entitled "SNP-SNP Interactions in Breast Cancer Susceptibility".

We previously submitted this manuscript to BMC Genetics, and we have made the necessary format changes to re-submit it to BMC Cancer as advised by Sandra Le, Sandra Le, Ph.D., Assistant Editor, BMC-series journals. We appreciate your considering this manuscript as a research article in BMC Cancer.

The changes we have made include:

1. Changing the structure of the Abstract into Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions.

2. Addition of Competing interests part.

3. Changing the order of the subsections of the manuscript into Abstract; Background; Methods; Results; Discussion; Conclusions; Abbreviations; Competing interests; Authors’ contributions; Acknowledgements; References; Figure legends; Tables; Description of Additional files.

Our focus in this study has been to build a framework for a biological knowledge-based polygenic model for breast cancer predisposition. We analysed 19 SNPs in genes from major cancer related pathways and we have shown significant statistical interactions suggesting biological cross talk among genes/SNPs from DNA repair, cell cycle and carcinogen metabolism pathways. This study not only provides insight into the analysis of the multi-genic nature of breast cancer, but also provides important information regarding how cell function relates to breast cancer development. We believe that these and other interactions in breast cancer will one day be identified and used in clinics to identify individuals at increased risk of breast cancer and develop preventive strategies.

This manuscript is not currently under review by any other journal. Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely Yours,

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