Author's response to reviews

Title: Mutations in PIK3CA are infrequent in Neuroblastoma

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Author's response to reviews: see over
June 15, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a paper entitled “Mutations in PIK3CA are infrequent in neuroblastoma” which was reviewed for publication in *BMC Cancer* as a Research Article. We are appreciative of the reviewers comments as well as editorial comments requesting formatting changes of our manuscript prior to publication.

In response to these critiques the following actions have been taken:

1. **Formatting change requested**: “Crop figures to reduce white space within image”. This has been done as recommended for Figure 1 (the original Figure 2 is already close-cropped as requested).

2. **Minor essential revisions requested**: “Clarify in the methods section the origin of the cell lines used”. A sentence describing the origin of the cell lines used as well as references to two prior publications further characterizing these cell lines has now been included (revised MS p6).

3. **Minor essential revisions requested**: Please clarify the sequencing strategy with respect to replicate PCR reactions. The manuscript has been revised to specifically state that all sequences were confirmed bi-directionally (providing double coverage). All abnormal (non-WT) sequences were confirmed again bi-directionally from replicate amplification reactions (providing four-fold coverage). This is now more clearly stated in the revised MS p9.

4. **Discretionary revision recommended**: “I would suggest a reduction or compression of the Tables.” We believe the tables as originally submitted contained the information we felt most relevant to our work and therefore have respectfully re-submitted them without the suggested compression or deletion.

We do wish to thank the reviewers for their comments. No portion of this work has been published elsewhere or is under consideration by another journal. No financial or other interests exist which would create a conflict of interest. All authors are in complete agreement with the manuscript contents.
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Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Hogarty, MD [electronic signature]

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