Author's response to reviews

Title: Association of RASSF1A and CASP8 promoter methylation in neuroblastoma

Authors:

Paula Lazcoz (paula.lazcoz@unavarra.es)
Jorge Munoz (jmunara@yahoo.es)
Manuel Nistal (mnistal.hulp@salud.madrid.org)
Angel Pestana (apestana@iib.uam.es)
Ignacio Encio (ignacio.encio@unavarra.es)
Javier S Castresana (jscastresana@unav.es)

Version: 4 Date: 5 October 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
October 5, 2006

Dear Editor of BMC Cancer:

Please, receive herein the 2nd revised version, via on line, of our manuscript nº 9541640910666569 entitled: Frequent promoter hypermethylation of RASSF1A and CASP8 in neuroblastoma, by Lázcoz et al.

I include a point-by-point response to the concerns of the reviewers and the editor, in order to satisfy their requirements for publication.

Yours sincerely,

Javier S. Castresana, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Genetics
Unidad de Biología de Tumores Cerebrales
Universidad de Navarra,
Irunlarrea 1
E-31008 Pamplona, Spain
Fax: +34-948-425652
E-mail: jscastresana@unav.es
Answering to reviewer Yoshitaka Sekido

No comments were made by this reviewer.

Answering to reviewer Reinhard Dammann

1. The statistical significance of Rassf1A and Casp8 methylation should be indicated in the abstract.

   The Results section of the abstract contains a sentence like the one suggested by the reviewer. When doing the first revision for BMC Cancer, and following the recommendations made by the reviewers, we deleted a sentence partially similar to that from the Conclusions section of the abstract.

2. In the Introduction a reference for BLU hypermethylation in different tumor entities is missing.

   Reference number [3] has been included after the words ‘…neuroblastoma cell lines[3].’ Also we have included the words “cell lines”, according to the citation.

3. Table 1: 'Diagnostica' should be replaced by an English term and references for the Ki67, LOH1p and MYCN amp should be indicated.

   “Diagnóstico” has been changed to the English term “Diagnosis” in Table 1. Table 1 has been centered, to make it more beautiful in presentation.
   We can not give references for Ki67, LOH1p and MYCN amp, as they correspond to not published data (the three analyses were done in most samples, on a regular basis).

Answering to the Editor

Please state in the manuscript file whether you obtained ethical/consent approval for the study.

Yes, we have an approved protocol for this study. Its reference is 38/2002, from the Ethics Committee of the University of Navarra, in Pamplona, Spain. We have inserted it in Material and Methods (Statistical analysis and ethics section).