Author's response to reviews

Title: The monoclonal antibody SM5-1 recognizes a fibronectin variant which is widely expressed in melanoma

Authors:

Uwe Trefzer (uwe.trefzer@charite.de)
Yingwen Chen (Yingwen@lycos.com)
Gunda Herberth (gunda.herberth@ufz.de)
Felix Kiecker (felix.kiecker@charite.de)
Maja A Hofmann (maja.hofmann@charite.de)
Yajun Guo (yguo@unmc.edu)
Wolfram Sterry (wolfram.sterry@charite.de)

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The research presented here does not include interventions in patients, but the in vitro use of tissues (melanoma cell lines) obtained in standard of care surgery for melanoma metastases. Upon admission to hospital all of our patients are asked to sign a statement (yes/no) that tissue obtained by regular or standard surgery not needed or used for diagnostic tests can be used for scientific and anonymous examinations without the further need of ethics committee approval. Therefore, the patients from whom tissues for cell line generation were obtained gave their written consent for the use of their remaining tissue for scientific use.