Author's response to reviews

Title: Nuclear localization and and cytosolic overexpression of LASP-1 correlates with tumor size and nodal-positivity of human breast carcinoma

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Puebla,

thank you very much for your careful consideration and for the positive message regarding the impact of our manuscript, entitled "Nuclear and cytosolic overexpression of LASP-1 correlates with tumor size and nodal-positivity of human breast carcinoma".

We appreciate all comments and criticisms made by the reviewers and addressed them point by point.

Independent of the reviewers suggestions we changed the term "nuclear expression of LASP-1" into the more precise term "nuclear localization". Therefore the manuscript is now titled "Nuclear localization and cytosolic overexpression of LASP-1...".

Sincerely,

Dr. Elke Butt

Enclosures (detailed response to the comments of the referees)

Review #1 (Alfredo Fusco)

We thank you for your positive comments and interest in our work on LASP-1.

The discrepancies between mRNA expression and LASP-1 protein levels are discussed in more detail now by stating: This discrepancy could be due to the fact that Tomasetto et al. (4) used total surgical specimens for their mRNA isolation containing undefined amounts of LASP-1 free benign tissue while our data focused on malignant cells only.

The word "about" has been deleted
Review #2 (Alfonso Duenas-Gonzales)

We thank the reviewer for his positive comments regarding the impact and importance of our work on LASP-1 in breast cancer.

Reference (5) has been substituted by reference (4).

The discordant results of the work by Asaka et al (Ref. 34) and our studies are discussed in more detail now: "In a recent investigation, a cDNA microarray was used to establish a prognostic index for nodal-positive breast cancer [34]. Similar to our study, all 20 patients were LASP-1 positive, albeit LASP-1 was found to be one out of five genes being under-expressed in patients that died within 5 years after surgery. This is in part differing from our results demonstrating a correlation between high LASP-1 protein levels and nodal-positivity. However, in many cases there are significant discrepancies between the measured mRNA levels and protein data indicating post-transcriptional mechanism of regulation and stabilization [35]."

At the moment we are performing a study to evaluate the role of LASP-1 in cell cycle regulation and nuclear transport. Therefore we do not want to anticipate our study and prefer to keep the preliminary results confidential. Thus we inserted the term "preliminary results" in the discussion concerning LASP-1 and Ki67-expression to indicate that our studies are not finished yet.

According to the recommendation of reviewer 2, we have tempered our statement about LASP-1 being a good predictive marker as mentioned in the discussion. We therefore deleted the word "good" in the sentence and attenuated our conclusion in this way, but left the rest of the paragraph unchanged since we do not think that our last remarks about LASP-1 are too speculative.