Author's response to reviews

Title: Availability and Quality of Paraffin Blocks Identified by the Shared Pathology Informatics Network (SPIN): A Multi-institutional Study

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Version: 2  Date: 8 February 2006

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February 8, 2006

Dear Editorial Board,

I am pleased to submit this research article titled “Availability and Quality of Paraffin Blocks Identified by the Shared Pathology Informatics Network (SPIN): A Multi-institutional Study” (Manuscript ID 1607386739368951) on behalf of our entire team working on the Shared Pathology Informatics Network (SPIN).

In order to accelerate translational research from “bench to bedside”, there have been many recent initiatives pushing to develop large multi-institution biorespositories that would supply tissue samples. Some of these initiatives launched here in the USA include those by IBM at their Biobank Summit IV and the Office of Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research by the National Cancer Institute. International groups such as the UK Biobank and the Australian Biospecimen Network have also begun building their infrastructures. However, a common problem faced with many of these groups is that these resources focus on prospective tissue collections. We believe that having access to millions of paraffin archived tissues that are currently available at many academic institutions are a rich tissue resource that can jump start many research activities. When coupling these archived material with clinical and follow up data via other informatics solutions, they can provide researchers with samples with at least 10 years of associated historical clinical data. We believe that the results learned by our group with this tissue study, as described in the manuscript, demonstrates that the paraffin archives can be a rich resource of tissue specimens for future research studies.

I thank your editorial board and reviewers in advance for taking the time to consider reviewing our work for the BMC Cancer.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

-Ashok

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