Author's response to reviews

Title: Matrix-Comparative Genomic Hybridization from Multicenter Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Colorectal Cancer Tissue Blocks

Authors:

Heiko Fensterer (heiko.fensterer@med.uni-marburg.de)
Bernhard Radlwimmer (b.radlwimmer@dkfz-heidelberg.de)
Jorn Strater (jstraeter@espath.de)
Malte Buchholz (malte.buchholz@med.uni-marburg.de)
Daniela E Aust (daniela.Aust@pathologie.med.tu-dresden.de)
Catherine Julie (catherine.julie@apr.ap-hop-paris.fr)
Francois Radvanyi (Francois.Radvanyi@curie.fr)
Bernard Nordlinger (bernard.nordlinger@aps.ap-hop-paris.fr)
Claudio Belluco (cbelluco@cro.it)
Erich Van Cutsem (VanCutsem@uz.kuleuven.ac.be)
Claus-Henning Kohne (onkologie@klinikum-oldenburg.de)
Hans A Kestler (hans.kestler@uniklinik-ulm.de)
Carsten Schwaenen (carsten.schwaenen@t-online.de)
Michelle Nessling (m.nessling@dkfz.de)
Manfred P Lutz (m.lutz@caritasklinik.de)
Peter Lichter (M.MacLeod@dkfz-heidelberg.de)
Thomas M Gress (thomas.gress@med.uni-marburg.de)

Version: 4 Date: 5 March 2007

Author's response to reviews:

Re.: Revision of Manuscript Ndegrees 1530314670112953, "Matrix-Comparative Genomic Hybridization from Multicenter Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Colorectal Cancer Tissue Blocks"

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

Thank you for your letter concerning our abovementioned manuscript. All comments of the reviewer are again addressed in this letter and if necessary have been implemented in the revised version of the manuscript (highlighted in red).

In detail we have revised the manuscript as follows:

Reviewer:
The authors stress that the sample size was too low to derive any statistical conclusions. In that case, the claim that "18q-loss and 13q gain were identified as possible surrogate markers for advanced disease" should be downplayed or possibly removed from the results section.

Reply:
We have chosen a more careful wording in the abstract and in the discussion for this result.

Reviewer:
The authors state that the main purpose of this study was to show the feasibility of performing matrix-CGH with DNA derived from FFPE samples. A detailed materials and method of DNA isolation and a array hybridization should be included in the methods section or as as supplementary information.

Reply:
Detailed protocols and in depth descriptions of experimental procedures are now provided as supplementary material.

We hope that our revised version of the manuscript has addressed all concerns raised by the reviewer.

Sincerely yours

Thomas Gress