Author’s response to reviews

Title: Conventional and molecular cytogenetics of human non-medullary thyroid carcinoma: characterization of eight cell line models and review of the literature on clinical samples

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Author’s response to reviews:

Porto, October 21st 2008

Dear Prof. Melissa Norton,

Please find enclosed a revised version of our manuscript entitled “Conventional and molecular cytogenetics of human non-medullary thyroid carcinoma: characterization of eight cell line models and review of the literature on clinical samples”, in which we addressed all issues raised by the reviewers.

The following changes have been made to the manuscript:

Reviewer 1 (Susanne Gollin) – Minor Essential Revisions 1 to 6 have been corrected as requested.

Reviewer 2 (Theodoros Foukakis) – Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The percentage of mutations at the different genes has been revised in accordance with references 2 and 4, both thorough reviews of the existing literature.

2. A paragraph reflecting the alterations of the PIK3/akt pathway in UTC has been added to the Background section (an additional review reference has been inserted here).

3. All instances of the term “meta-analysis” have been changed into “review”.

4. We performed the current cytogenetic profiling upon reception of the different cell lines to our laboratory (2-5 passages). As most cell lines were kindly provided by different associate laboratories (Table 1), it is difficult for us to accurately define how many passages were performed in the original source laboratories.

5. Information was added in the Discussion and Conclusions regarding the use of genotyping as an efficient alternative to ensure cell line identity.
Minor Essential Revision 1 has been corrected as requested.

Yours sincerely,
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