Author's response to reviews

Title: siRNA Inhibition of Telomerase Enhances the Anti-Cancer Effect of Doxorubicin in Breast Cancer Cells

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Response to Reviewer:

We greatly appreciate the careful reviews of our previous manuscript. We have thoroughly studied the reviewer’s comments, and made appropriate changes accordingly in the revised manuscript.

Following is our point-by-point responses to the reviewer:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
• The authors need to justify the inclusion of hTERT histochemical staining and the results (Figure 2E, left and right panels). One would not expect the si-RNA construct still to be present in xenografts weeks after transfection. MCF-7 cells express abundant telomerase activity. So, why is there only sporadic, very intensely stained “h-TERT”? Were controls included in these studies to assure hTERT staining is specific? These data are confusing and as presented they detract from the other high quality data.

Response: This is an excellent question. The reason that we included the hTERT histochemical staining was because the other reviewer had requested such an experiment. After we tested the two cell lines with the histochemical staining, we found that only MCF-7 cells expressed abundant telomerase activity, but MDA-MB-453 cells did not show any activity. Since the results were rather confusing and detracting, we completely agree with Dr. Elmore to have removed this part of result (Fig. 2E) from the revised manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions:
• There are still places throughout the manuscript that require some minor editorial assistance.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer’s comment. We have requested Dr. Costa, Senior Scientific Writer at City of Hope National Medical Center, to help us with manuscript editorial assistance. The revised manuscript had been corrected for all the grammatical mistakes.

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published.

Response: The language mistakes have been corrected by our professional scientific writer.