Author's response to reviews

Title: The high affinity selectin glycan ligand C2-O-sLex and mRNA transcripts of the core 2 beta-1,6-N-acetylgusaminsaminyltransferase (C2GnT1) gene are highly expressed in human colorectal adenocarcinomas

Authors:

Catherine A. St. Hill (sthil001@umn.edu)
Mariya Farooqui (faroo001@umn.edu)
Gregory Mitcheltree (mitc0120@umn.edu)
H. Evin Gulbahce (gulba001@umn.edu)
Jose Jessurun (jessu001@umn.edu)
Qing Cao (caox0075@umn.edu)
Bruce Walcheck (walch003@umn.edu)

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Author's response to reviews:

January 19, 2009

Melissa Norton, M.D.
Editor-In-Chief
BMC Cancer
Biomed Central Ltd.
Middlesex House
34-42 Cleveland Street
London, W1T 4LB, UK
RE: MS: 4306465602167484

Dear Dr. Norton,

We have revised our manuscript titled, “The high affinity selectin glycan ligand C2-O-sLex and mRNA transcripts of the core 2 #1,6-N-acetylgusaminyltransferase (C2GnT1) gene are highly expressed in human colorectal adenocarcinomas” and would like to have it reconsidered for publication in BMC Cancer. We believe that our manuscript is important because we demonstrate for the first time that the oligosaccharides sLex-modified core 2 #1,6 O-glycans (C2-O-sLex), high affinity selectin glycan ligands for leukocytes, are tumor-associated antigens that are highly expressed on colorectal adenocarcinomas and liver metastases but not on benign colorectal and liver tissues. C2GnT1 mRNA gene expression is also upregulated in malignant but not benign colorectal tissues. C2-O-sLex may prove to be a useful early indicator of metastasis and a predictor of patient prognosis. Moreover, targeting
glycosyltransferases such as C2GnT1 is important because the regulation of C2-O-sLex synthesis may be an important therapeutic target to control carcinoma dissemination.

As the corresponding author, I apologize for the delay in resubmitting the manuscript. I gave birth to a baby earlier than expected in December 2008 after experiencing medical complications during pregnancy. I was therefore unable to continue with the paper revisions in a timely manner.

Thank you for your review of this manuscript. I can be reached preferably by e-mail at sthil001@umn.edu; at the mailing address above; by telephone at 651-330-7095; or by fax at 612-624-0751 or with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Catherine St. Hill, D.V.M., Ph.D