Author's response to reviews

Title: Sun Protection and Sunbathing Practices Among At-Risk Family Members of Patients with Melanoma

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 13, 2010

Dear Dr. Patel:

Thank you for your careful review of this manuscript. We have addressed the concerns, and our changes in the manuscript are highlighted in yellow.

**Reviewer's 1 comments**

*Concern 1.* Background, 5th paragraph, line 4: Why Ref 25, a paper on colorectal cancer screening, is cited for skin cancer studies?  
*Response:* This error has been corrected.

*Concern 2.* Method, last line: The offspring of patients is reported as 55%, which is different from 56.1% reported in Table 2.  
*Response:* This error has been corrected.

**Reviewer 2 comments**

*Concern 3:* Page 4, Paragraph 2, line 6: close bracket ]  
*Response:* This error has been corrected.

*Concern 4.* On the final pages of the manuscript there are a few sentences that are very long and therefore slightly confusing. The reader may follow the message better if these could be divided into more than one sentence.  
*Response:* We have divided these sentences into shorter sentences.

**Reviewer 3’s comments**

*Concern 5:* This manuscript would benefit from a large table that included all items used instead of references to old work/work of colleges i.e. expansion of table 1 or as supplement.  
*Response:* That would be a very large table. Instead, we refer to an online appendix where the survey will be located. If you are able to do this, that would be a better option than putting all of the survey in a table. That would not be possible.

**Editorial Requests:**

*Concern 6:* Please can you include all of the author's email addresses on the title page of your manuscript.  
*Response:* Electronic mail addressees have been added.
Concern 7: Please can you include the name of the ethical committee that approved your study.
Response: This information has been added.

Concern 8: Please include a 'Competing interests' section between the Conclusions and Authors' contributions. If there are none to declare, please write 'The authors declare that they have no competing interests'.
Response: This section has been added.

Concern 9: Financial competing interests: In the past five years have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? Is such an organization financing this manuscript (including the article-processing charge)? If so, please specify. -Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future? If so, please specify. -Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript? Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript? If so, please specify. -Do you have any other financial competing interests? If so, please specify. Non-financial competing interests: Are there any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, academic, ideological, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript? If so, please specify.
Response: Financial competing interests are declared.

Concern 10: Please include an Authors' contributions section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

For the Authors' contributions we suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

An "author" is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. To qualify as an author one should 1) have made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) have been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) have given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support.
Response: This section has been added.

Concern 11: Please can you include a 'Conclusion' section in your manuscript.
Response: A Conclusions section is now included.

We hope the changes we have made address the reviewers’ concerns. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sharon Manne, Ph.D.
Corresponding Author