Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with the severity and improvement of fatigue in patients with advanced cancer presenting to an outpatient palliative care clinic

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dated 8.7.12

To

Editor, BMC Palliative Care

Sub: Revised manuscript

Dear Editor,

Attached is the revised manuscript describing “Factors associated with the severity and improvement of fatigue in patients with advanced cancer presenting to an outpatient palliative care clinic.” Based on the Editors comments we have revised the manuscript and detailed below all changes made in a point-point format as requested.

Best,

Sriram

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Response to Editors comments:

1. Ethical Approval

Can you please include the full name of the ethical committee that granted approval for your study. Please include a reference number if obtained.

Based on the Editors comments we now revised the methods section of the manuscript (Page 7, para 1) to state: “We received University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Institutional Review Board approval for the study (protocol DR01-0710).”

2. Competing Interests

Please can you include a ‘Competing Interests’ section in your manuscript. This should appear after the References section. Authors are required to complete a declaration of competing interests. All competing interests that are declared will be listed at the end of published articles. Where an author gives no competing interests, the listing will read 'The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests'.

Based on the Editors comments we now revised the manuscript (after references) to state: 'The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests'.

3. Authors’ Contributions

Please can you include an 'Authors' Contributions' section to appear after the Competing Interests section. In order to give appropriate credit to each author of a paper, the individual contributions of authors to the manuscript should be specified in this section.

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 and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Based on the Editors comments we now revised the manuscript (after references) to state: 'SY and EB were involved in the study concept, design, assembly, analysis, interpretation of the data and drafting the manuscript. DLU was involved in the design, assembly, analysis, interpretation of the data and drafting of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.'

4. References, Tables and general formatting as per the instructions for authors guidelines.
Based on the Editors comments we now revised the manuscript to format the references Tables and general formatting as per instructions.