Author's response to reviews

Title: Smoking decreases the level of circulating CD34+ progenitor cells in young healthy women - a pilot study

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Version: 5 Date: 12 April 2010

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Dear Editors,

Herewith we submit a revised version of our manuscript entitled "Smoking decreases level of circulating CD 34+ progenitor cells in young healthy women - a pilot study" (MS: 2842876873147733). We regret that we were not able to response to the second remark of reviewer 2 until now, because this remark was missing in the original letter from the 3rd December 2009. We hope that our article is now acceptable for publication in your journal, and we keenly look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Antje Ludwig
Verena Stangl

2. Why express CD34+CD133+ as % of PBMCs and not as numbers/events measured?

Comparison of data concerning circulating PC is very difficult because of multiple definitions, methods and protocols used to evaluate and count these cells by different laboratories. This issue prompted Duda et al. (2007) to propose a protocol for phenotypic detection and enumeration of circulating endothelial cells and circulating progenitor cells in human blood. We followed the suggestions of the authors to express PC as percentage of measured PBMCs.