Dear Dr. Sauter:

Thank you for your informative review of my manuscript. I am submitting a revised version based on your suggestions. Please find my responses to your concerns below.

Reviewer's report
Title: A descriptive study of variables associated with obtaining nipple aspirate fluid in a cohort of non-lactating women
Version: 2 Date: 13 August 2006
Reviewer: Edward Sauter
Reviewer's report:
General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
In the response to reviewers, the authors have addressed the concerns listed satisfactorily. Unfortunately, for one of the responses the corresponding manuscript text does not provide the same message, or at least not as clearly. Specifically, this reviewer would like the response in the text to the question regarding exogenous vs endogenous estrogen to replicate the response to reviewers from "It seems likely..." to the end of the response.

The manuscript section referred to above has been changed to replicate the response to reviewers in our July 2006 letter. The corresponding manuscript section now reads:
"It seems likely that endogenous reproductive and menstrual hormones are partly responsible for the greater ability to obtain NAF in younger versus older women or in women with intact ovaries versus those with bilateral oophorectomy, given recent studies showing reduced NAF yield in women undergoing bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (BSO), making rates of NAF production for premenopausal women undergoing BSO similar to the rates of post-menopausal women [17]. However, at a certain age (which likely varies between women), aspects of senescence other than declining endogenous hormones also might influence breast physiology, the production of NAF, and the ability to obtain it. Greater understanding of these factors would be necessary to explain why exogenous estrogens do not appear to increase ability to obtain NAF."

Thank you again for your assistance with this manuscript. We will look forward to your reply.
Sincerely,

Kimberly Baltzell