Author's response to reviews

Title: Elevated expression of LSD1 (Lysine-specific demethylase 1) during tumour progression from pre-invasive to invasive ductal carcinoma of the breast

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Elevated expression of LSD1 (Lysine-specific demethylase 1) during tumour progression from pre-invasive to invasive ductal carcinoma of the breast

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Responses to reviewers' comments:

Dear Professor Stokoe,
We would like to thank you for your valuable comments which helped us to further improve the manuscript. Please find enclosed our response letter. The revised parts of the text have been marked by underlining in the manuscript text ("Discussion": page 7).

Referee’s (Professor David Stokoe) comments:

Reviewer's report The data is potentially interesting, though preliminary and short. If this is within the scope of the journals publications, I don't have any issue with the data per se. What I do find quite surprising, is that the data directly contradicts their previous report, showing that LSD1 immunoreactivity was associated with ER negative tumors. This manuscript shows that LSD1 positivity is associated with ER positive tumors. This discrepancy is barely mentioned, never mind attempted to explain. It is confusing when discrepant data is presented from different groups, but even more so when the same group provides this. Minimally I would expect to see some kind of explanation in their discussion - the size of the cohorts examined is quite similar.

Response:
Dear Professor Stokoe, thank you very much for your valuable comments.
Our aim was to primarily investigate LSD1 expression during tumour progression from non-invasive to invasive ductal breast carcinoma. We agree with your comment that our results are preliminary and have to be confirmed in a larger cohort in prospective studies. We will start to collect more samples for a greater cohort and we expect to verify our results as they are statistical significant in this initial study. We tried to explain the discrepant data in the discussion part (see page 7) as follows:

“However, in our collective of invasive ductal breast carcinoma the inverse correlation of LSD1 expression with lymph node status, histological grade and oestrogen receptor status may be due to an inhomogeneous and relatively small group size of invasive breast carcinoma specimens because this study was not constructed to validate LSD1 expression in invasive breast carcinoma as it was already analysed in a previous work by Lim et al. [13]. Furthermore, our collective of invasive ductal breast carcinomas consists mainly of tumours with small tumour size accordingly pT1 [24] tumours whereas Lim et al. [13] analysed more tumours of a higher stage respectively pT2 to pT4 [24] invasive breast carcinomas. Nevertheless, the association between LSD1 expression and oestrogen receptor status has to be further investigated and validated in greater cohorts of invasive breast carcinomas.”