Author's response to reviews

Title: Infrared Micro-Spectral Imaging: Automatic Distinction of Cell Types in Axillary Lymph Node Histology

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Dear Editors

I enclose the manuscript entitled “Infrared Micro-Spectral Imaging: Automatic Distinction of Cell Types in Axillary Lymph Node Histology”. With this manuscript we would like to introduce a novel approach for the automated diagnosis of surgical specimens commonly screened for disease by means of infrared micro-spectroscopy. This non-destructive photonic technique can provide a rapid measurement of sample biochemistry and identify variations that occur between healthy and diseased tissue. The advantage of this method is objective and reproducible diagnosis, independent of fatigue, experience and inter-observer variability. The technique may also be used to examine cell exfoliates, which we are investigating in parallel to this study. We believe this method has great potential and could help identify poorly differentiated and hard-to-determine cases of metastatic invasion, such as micrometastases. We hope to reach a broad medical readership for which we find your journal very appropriate.

As requested, I have included four potential peer reviewers that are experts in their field of study. These are as follows:

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If you have any further questions please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Benjamin Bird