Author's response to reviews

Title: PALB2 variants in hereditary and unselected Finnish Prostate cancer cases

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Bjorn Olsen,

Thank you for your editorial letter of December 4th, 2009 and for the accompanying formatting requirements by the Editorial Production team. We now enclose a formatted manuscript, in which we have addressed the concerns of the Editor.

The formatting changes have been dealt as follows:

1. Authors’ contributions: Please indicate that all the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

   Answer: We have now inserted a sentence into Author’s contribution paragraph that indicates that all the authors have read and approved the final manuscript. (page 11)

2. Figure legends 1 and 2 contain graphics. These will either need to be included within the image as a key, or written in text (e.g. "black square").

   Answer: We have now removed the graphics from the figure legends and the text is now in following format in page 17:

   “Figure 1. Family 310 segregating the $PALB$ mutation. Minus-symbol signifies a person that has been screened for the $PALB2$ 1592delT and mutation, but found negative. Clinical information on this family is found in Table 2. Index person is marked with a black triangle, black square denotes persons with prostate cancer, grey circle indicates breast cancer cases and black square with white and grey corners signifies patient with prostate, stomach and skin cancers.”

   “Figure 2. Mitomycin C growth inhibition in lymphoblastoid cell lines from the 310 family. Black circle and square depicts cell lines derived from affected individuals with $PALB2$ 1592delT mutation. Black triangle signs for control sample from healthy individual. Numbers correspond to ID numbers in the pedigree in figure 1.”

3. Please remove the running title and keywords from the title page.

   Answer: Running title and keyword have been removed from the title page.

4. Please place the grant support in the Acknowledgements.
Answer: The grant support has now been placed in the Acknowledgements. (page 11)

5. Please do not number the tables using Roman numerals. Please rename all tables using standard numbers e.g. Table 1, Table 2 etc. Please also remember the change your references to the tables throughout the manuscript text. Please place table legends directly above the tables.

Answer: The tables have now been numbered with standard numbers and changes have been also made to table references in the manuscript. Table legends have been moved directly above the tables (tables are in pages 15-16)

6. Please remove the visible vertical lines from your tables.

Answer: The visible lines have been removed from the tables

7. Please crop figure 1. It is important for the final layout of the manuscript that the figures are cropped as closely as possible to minimise white space around the image.

Answer: Figure 1. has been cropped to minimize white space around the image.

8. Please take this opportunity to check your manuscript for any typographical errors and to make any final corrections or revisions. This is the final proofing stage for your manuscript, and you will not be able to make any changes after acceptance.

Answer: We have carefully gone through the manuscript for any typographical errors and we did not find any items to be changed.