Author’s response to reviews

Title: TOPBP1 missense variant Arg309Cys and breast cancer in a German hospital-based case-control study

Authors:

Magda A Blaut (blaut.magda@googlemail.com)
Natalia V Bogdanova (bogdanova.natalia@mh-hannover.de)
Michael Bremer (bremer.michael@mh-hannover.de)
Johann H Karstens (karstens.jh@mh-hannover.de)
Peter Hillemanns (hillemanns.peter@mh-hannover.de)
Thilo Dork (doerk.thilo@mh-hannover.de)

Version: 2 Date: 3 November 2010

Author’s response to reviews:

Reply to Reviewer 1:

Thank you for the comments. We have made the suggested changes as follows.

1. We understand that the term “mutation” (though originally neutral) could cause some prejudice or misunderstandings, so we changed this throughout the text into “substitution” or “variant”, incl. the second para on p. 4 as suggested.

2. This is correct. We clarified that we did first an RFLP screen on 168 samples to identify some heterozygote and homozygote carriers, followed by genotyping of the whole cohort by TAQMAN.

Reply to Reviewer 2:

Thank you for the comments. We have now indicated the number of cases (n=125) and controls (n=697) that had formed the basis of the association in the previous (Finnish) study.