Author's response to reviews

Title: Meta-analysis: implication of IL28B polymorphisms in spontaneous and treatment-related clearance for hepatitis C patients

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Version: 9 Date: 6 November 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Majadahonda, Tuesday, November 06, 2012

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Title: Meta-analysis: implications of IL28B polymorphisms in spontaneous and treatment-related clearance for hepatitis C patients
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you very much for your e-mail of November 5, 2012. Please find enclosed a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments and the new revised version of our manuscript. We hope that the current revised version of our manuscript is acceptable for publication. Please feel free to contact us regarding any further questions about our work.

Thank you very much for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Angeles Jimenez-Sousa, PhD
REVIEWER 1:

Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-analysis: implication of IL28B polymorphisms in spontaneous and treatment-related clearance for hepatitis C patients

Version: 6 Date: 29 October 2012
Reviewer: Thomas Berg

Reviewer's report:
The authors provide an extensive point-by-point reply to the reviewers’ comments and notably, they provided an updated overview of current literature of the most important IL28B polymorphisms (SNPs) and detailed association analyses for sustained virologic response and spontaneous viral clearance. I suggest acceptance of the revised manuscript with consideration of following minor modifications:

1. They authors should carefully check their punctuation in the manuscript and in the supplemental material. For example, check the row referring to age in the Supplemental Table 1.

Following the reviewer's recommendation, we have carefully checked the punctuation along the manuscript and supplemental material.

2. Figure 3: Analysis of the IL28B SNP rs129780275 is missing.

We apologize for this mistake. We have included the figure related to rs12980275 sensitivity analysis within the Figure 3.

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.

REVIEWER 4:

Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-analysis: implication of IL28B polymorphisms in spontaneous and treatment-related clearance for hepatitis C patients

Version: 6 Date: 1 November 2012
Reviewer: Jaime Peters
Reviewer's report:
The authors have gone to great lengths to address the comments I made previously and I am happy with their updated manuscript and have no further comments to make.
We are really grateful for the reviewer comments.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests