Author's response to reviews

Title: Differential endothelial cell gene expression by African Americans versus Caucasian Americans: A possible contribution to health disparity in vascular disease and cancer

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Mick Aulakh
Assistant Editor, *BMC Medicine*

This revised manuscript contains two requested changes:

**FIRST**, on page 10 the small paragraph immediately before the title **Predetermined Gene Sets** has been changed to:


This confirms deposit of the microarray data as requested.

**SECOND**, the last paragraph prior to the CONCLUSION section now reads:

**Present Result vis a vis Prior Publication**

The present identification of a significant biological systems difference between AA and CA appears to be discrepant with a prior project control comparison of AA versus CA that described no such difference. [26] However, this is simply explained by employment of two different approaches to probing biological systems. The earlier study utilized a (now-abandoned) Wald test-based approach that we later found to be less sensitive than the presently employed GSEA method. Consistent with this, application of the old method to the present data set again fails to identify any significant biological system difference. Conversely, application of the current method to that earlier data set also reveals the same difference as described here for shear responsiveness biology in AA versus CA.

Thank you,

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