Author's response to reviews

Title: MIA is a potential biomarker for tumor load in neurofibromatosis type 1

Authors:

Mateusz Kolanczyk (kolanshy@molgen.mpg.de)
Victor Mautner (v.mautner@uke.uni-hamburg.de)
Nadine Kossler (kossler@molgen.mpg.de)
Rosa Nguyen (rosi.nguyen@gmail.com)
Jirko Kühnisch (jirko.kuehnisch@charite.de)
Tomasz Zemojtel (zemojtel@molgen.mpg.de)
Aleksander Jamsheer (jamsheer@wp.pl)
Eike Wegener (wegener.eike@googlemail.com)
Boris Thurisch (mail@boris-thurisch.de)
Sigrid Tinschert (Sigrid.Tinschert@tu-dresden.de)
Nikola Holtkamp (nikola.holtkamp@charite.de)
Su-Jin Park (su-jin.park@charite.de)
Patricia Birch (birch@interchange.ubc.ca)
David Kendler (kendler@ca.inter.net)
Anja Harder (anja.harder@ukmuenster.de)
Stefan Mundlos (stefan.mundlos@charite.de)
Lan Kluwe (kluwe@uke.de)

Version: 5 Date: 3 February 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Mick Aulakh,

Thank you for evaluating our manuscript nr: entitled “MIA is a potential biomarker for tumour load in neurofibromatosis type 1.” MS: 1924513230504997.

We introduced following requested corrections:

1.) We reformatted the abstract to include methods section. We included the rationale for using NF1Prx1 mice for discovery of NF1 tumor biomarker.

2.) We delineated in each of the manuscript sections which material was used (human or mouse).

3.) In the methods section we added information about the number of patients in the studied cohort and explicitly stated the source from which the NF1 tumours that underwent immunohistochemical testing were obtained (human).

4.) We decided to remove the Col2-Cre mouse model results to prevent confusion which might be caused by presenting mix of data from various mouse models and human samples. Instead, following was introduced:

‘MIA expression appeared more intensive in the Nf1 deficient cartilage in the Nf1Prx1 mice then in control embryos (Figure 1A). Similar results were obtained with embryos bearing cartilage specific inactivating of NF1 (data not shown).’

5.) We revised the results section of the manuscript stating the key findings of the experiments in the header of each paragraph. We also introduced information about number of patient in each group.

I hope that the introduced corrections improved the manuscript which will now be suitable for evaluation in the pear review process.

Sincerely,

Mateusz Kolanczyk
FG Development & Disease
Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics
I suggest the following reviewers:

Dr. Jan Friedman  
University of British Columbia, USA  
frid@interchange.ubc.ca

Dr. Nancy Ratner  
Cincinnati children’s hospital medical center  
University Cincinnati, USA  
nancy.ratner@cchmc.org

Dr. Brigitte Widemann  
National cancer institute, center for cancer research, USA  
widemanb@mail.nih.gov

Dr. Eric Legius  
Centre for Human Genetics,  
University Hospitals, Leuven, Belgium.  
Eric.Legius@med.kuleuven.be