Author's response to reviews

Title: Evidence for Transmission of HIV-1 Infection from an Elite Controller to a Patient who Progressed to AIDS: a case report

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Author's response to reviews:

May 8, 2012

Dear Editor:

Please find that a revised manuscript has now been uploaded that addresses the concern that was raised. We appreciate the need for the cautious interpretation of our observations. Considerable effort has now been made to communicate the limitations of our case interpretation. Specific instances are:

1. The title has been changed to begin with the words “Evidence for”.

2. In the abstract conclusion we use the phrases “evidence for” and “apparently transmitted”.

3. In the discussion (1st paragraph) “probable exposure” has been changed to “reasonable risk for”.

4. As suggested by the Associate Editor, we have added to the discussion (2nd paragraph) the sentence “we trust that MM and FF have provided truthful HIV-risk histories”.

5. The discussion clearly states (2nd paragraph) “it remains possible that we are incorrect in our assessment of the transmission history”.

6. As suggested by the Associate Editor, we have now stated that alternative transmission sequences “would allow for FF having a more typical AIDS-free survival time” (see Discussion 2nd paragraph).

7. Cautious interpretation is found in the Conclusion in the phrases “evidence for” and “potential roles”.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope that the revised manuscript is satisfactory and can now be accepted for publication in the Journal of Medical Case Reports.

Sincerely,

Scott Killian