Author's response to reviews

Title: NMD inhibition fails to identify tumour suppressor genes in microsatellite stable gastric cancer cell lines

Authors:

Tineke E Buffart (t.buffart@vumc.nl)
Marianne Tijssen (m.tijssen@vumc.nl)
Jamila El-Bchiri (elbchiri@cephb.fr)
Alex Duval (duval@cephb.fr)
Mark A van de Wiel (mark.vdwiel@vumc.nl)
Bauke Ylstra (b.ylstra@vumc.nl)
Gerrit A Meijer (ga.meijer@vumc.nl)
Beatriz Carvalho (b.carvalho@vumc.nl)

Version: 3 Date: 13 October 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Herewith I would like to submit our manuscript titled “NMD inhibition fails to identify tumor suppressor genes in microsatellite stable gastric cancer cell lines” by Buffart et al. for publication in BMC Medical Genomics. In this study we successfully inhibited the nonsense mediated decay (NMD) machinery in using siRNAs directed against UPF1. We applied the GINI (Gene Identification by Nonsense-mediated decay Inhibition) strategy combined with array comparative genomic hybridization (array CGH) in gastric cancer cell lines in an attempt to unravel new putative tumour suppressor genes involved in gastric carcinogenesis, which are inactivated by nonsense mutation and deletion. Despite the fact that the study was carefully performed, we did not detect genes inactivated by nonsense mutation. Although in principle this is a negative finding, an important message is that the GINI technique yields a high degree of false positive results. This probably also explains why, after the initial enthusiasm raised for the method, only few studies have been published on this topic.

We therefore feel that this study is of important value for the field, and that it falls within the scope of BMC Medical Genomics. We hope that you will consider this manuscript for publication.

All array data have been uploaded, according to MIAME standards, to the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database in order to become publicly available. As soon as we have the confirmation of this submission we will provide you with the accession number.

We do not have any conflicts of interest to report.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration, also on behalf of all authors,

Sincerely yours,

Beatriz Carvalho, PhD