Author's response to reviews

Title: Mutation analysis of PALB2 in BRCA1 and BRCA2-negative breast/ovarian cancer families from Eastern Ontario, Canada

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Dafne Solera
Executive Editor
BMC Cancer

Please find enclosed a manuscript entitled, “Mutation analysis of PALB2 in BRCA1 and BRCA2-negative breast/ovarian cancer families from Eastern Ontario, Canada”, which I am submitting on behalf of my co-authors.

We hope that the Editorial Board of BMC Cancer will consider this manuscript for publication as our research findings address a topic of interest to the readership of the BMC Cancer journal, namely the characterization of BRCA1 and BRCA2-negative breast/ovarian cancer families with germline mutations in the PALB2 breast cancer susceptibility gene. In our paper, we report on 4 novel and 1 previously reported PALB2 mutations found in a well characterized clinical cohort from a single Canadian institution. We report on loss of heterozygosity (LOH) studies performed on breast tumors from the five families and characterize the family characteristics most associated with the identification of a PALB2 mutation. Based on these findings, we formulate recommendations for clinical testing for PALB2 germline mutations. Such recommendations are needed as PALB2 testing moves from the research setting to daily clinical practice.

This report is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All named authors are aware of this submission.

Three suggested referees for this paper are:

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Thanking you in advance for your interest and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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