Author's response to reviews

Title: Low expression levels of hepsin and TMPRSS3 are associated with poor breast cancer survival

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Author's response to reviews: see over
LETTER OF RESUBMISSION #2

Dear Editor and the Reviewers,

Thank you once again for your valuable comments about our revised manuscript and thank you very much for having the opportunity to resubmit our manuscript according to the following discretionary revisions. In this letter, we have answered all comments point by point and revised manuscript accordingly. In this resubmission we have also included a supplementary version of the manuscript in which we have highlighted all the revisions.

Reviewer #1, Tiziana Triulzi:

Discretionary revision:

1. *The analysis regarding validation of TMPRSS1 and TMPRSS3 mRNA prognostic value in public datasets reported in the author’s response to reviews should be included in the result section of the final version of the manuscript.*

   Thank you for this comment. In the current version of the manuscript, we have described the Kaplan-Meier plotter in the methods section:

   **P11, line 238:** *We used an online Kaplan-Meier survival analysis tool to validate the value of TMPRSS1 and TMPRSS3 as prognostic biomarkers in breast cancer...*
We have also added these new results in the results section according to the comment. These results are now presented under the heading: “The prognostic value of low TMPRSS1 and TMPRSS3 mRNA expression levels in breast cancer was validated in a public gene expression dataset” (P16, line 367). We have also added the related figures from the previous cover letter as Supplementary Figures 5A-F.

Reviewer #2, Brian F. Clem:

Discretionary revision:

1. Page 13, top sentence should be changed to "yet was not significant during the 20-year follow up period"

   Thank you for this comment. We have re-formed the sentence accordingly.

We are looking forward to hear about your response soon,

Sincerely Yours,

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