Author's response to reviews

Title: Macrophage traits in cancer cells are induced by macrophage-cancer cell fusion and cannot be explained by cellular interaction

Authors:

Ivan Shabo (ivan.shabo@liu.se)
Kristine Midtbø (krimi000@student.liu.se)
Henrik Andersson (Henrik.A.Andersson@lio.se)
Emma Åkerlund (emma.akerlund92@gmail.com)
Hans Olsson (hans.olsson@lio.se)
Pia Wegman (pia.wegman@lio.se)
Cecilia Gunnarsson (cecilia.gunnarsson@lio.se)
Annelie Lindström (annelie.lindstrom@liu.se)

Version: 5 Date: 8 July 2015

Author’s response to reviews: see over
To the Editor of BMC Cancer

Dear Sir,  

Thank you again for your and reviewers comments of our article entitled “Macrophage traits in cancer cells are induced by macrophage-cancer cell fusion and cannot be explained by cellular interaction”

We would like to respond to comments from Prof. Nathalie Scholler as follows:

- **Figure 1**
  Exclamation points are likely to have occurred during the transfer of image 1 document to the journal's website. We download the image in JPG and hope exclamation points disappear. I even e-mailing (for safe sake) the image to the magazine to avoid fault transmission.

- **Figure 3**
  We agree that including the secondary only images in the figure is warranted in this case since the different cells may give very different unspecific staining by the secondary antibody. The images have been added to figure 3. The text for figure 3 is revised (red text).

- **Figure 4**
  We changed the text in figure b4 from "Hybrids" to "Transwell MCF7".

- **Figure 5**
  The purpose of two images in Figure 5 was to show examples of tumor heterogeneity. The images came from two patients / two different tumors. With two images would show both inter-tumoral and intra-tumoral variation which reflects tumor heterogeneity. I regret that this was not revealed clearly in figure 5 legend. Since perhaps this (from the editorial point of view) complicate the picture/figure, we choose to remove one image. In the image it is shown example how tumor cells are similar morphologically but show different phenotype.

  CD163 staining/expression in breast cancer cells was assessed by an experienced pathologist (Hans Olsson MD PhD) and a experienced breast surgeon (Ivan Shabo
MD PhD) with interest in breast cancer histopathology. During the histopathological analysis, strict cytomorphic criteria was used to distinguish between leukocytes and cancer cells. These issues are addressed in M&M and legend for figure 5.

The legend for figure 5 is revised (red text) with short explanation about morphologic distinction of cancer cells in relation to leukocytes.

Sincerely

Ivan Shabo MD PhD
Consultant in Endocrine and Sarkoma Surgery
Dept. of Surgery
Institution of Clinical and Experimental Medicine
Linköping University Hospital
581 85 Linköping
Sweden