Author’s response to reviews

Title: Melanoma cells replicate through chemotherapy by reducing levels of key homologous recombination protein RAD51 and increasing expression of translesion synthesis DNA Polymerase ζ

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Author’s response to reviews:

I am grateful for the invitation to submit a second revision of this manuscript that includes the editorial revisions requested:

1. We note that you have used human cell lines in your study, please confirm whether your study was submitted to and approved by your institutional ethics committee and include a statement to this effect in the Ethics and consent to participate section of the Declarations. Please also ensure that the full name of your ethics committee is included in this statement. If the need for ethics approval was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

RESPONSE: This statement has been added to the Ethics and consent to participate section of the Declarations: All of the cell lines used in this study were obtained as established human cell lines from cell repositories or other laboratories. Under the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, established human cell lines are not considered relevant material as all the original cells from the person have been replaced by cells that have divided and therefore have been created outside the human body. As such their use in this research study did not require authorisation (consent) or ethical approval.
2. In the Ethics approval and consent to participate section of the declarations, please clarify whether written consent was obtained to use the human ovarian cancer cells (PEO1 and PEO4) in your study.

RESPONSE: All of the cell lines used in this study, including the human ovarian cancer cell lines (PEO1 and PEO4), were obtained as established human cell lines from cell repositories or other laboratories. I have made a minor wording change to the Methods section on mammalian cells to make this clear. Under the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, established human cell lines are not considered relevant material as all the original cells from the person have been replaced by cells that have divided and therefore have been created outside the human body. As such their use in this research study did not require authorisation (consent) or ethical approval. So the statement added to the Ethics and consent to participate section of the Declarations under point 1 above also applies to the established human ovarian cancer cell lines.

3. We note that you have not included an acknowledgements section in the Declarations. If you have no acknowledgements please put ‘Not Applicable’ in this section.

DONE

4. Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

DONE

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

DONE