Author’s response to reviews

Title: Characterization and risk association of polymorphisms in Aurora kinases A, B and C with genetic susceptibility to gastric cancer development

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Dear Professor Catherine Rice,

Thank you for your response and the opportunity to revise our manuscript entitled: "Characterization and risk association of polymorphisms in Aurora kinases A, B and C with genetic susceptibility to gastric cancer development" (Reference number: BCAN-D-18-02595R2).

We would like to sincerely thank the editor and the reviewers for critical reading of this study and valuable suggestions. We are grateful for your constructive comments and thorough evaluation of the paper. In the accompanying Response Letter below we have addressed the Editor’s comments and revised the manuscript accordingly. We have also removed all highlighting marks and other markings from the manuscript and checked that the manuscript conforms to the journal style.
We sincerely hope that the revisions are satisfactory and that the manuscript meets the requirements for publication in the BMC Cancer.

Yours sincerely,

Petra Hudler

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Subject: Response Letter to evaluation of manuscript "Characterization and risk association of polymorphisms in Aurora kinases A, B and C with genetic susceptibility to gastric cancer development", submitted to BMC Cancer (Reference number: BCAN-D-18-02595R2).

Date: August 30, 2019

Dear Editor and Reviewers,

Below are listed responses to Editor’s and Reviewers’ comments for the manuscript entitled "Characterization and risk association of polymorphisms in Aurora kinases A, B and C with genetic susceptibility to gastric cancer development”, submitted to BMC Cancer (Reference number: BCAN-D-18-02595R2).

The authors would like to thank the editor and reviewers for constructive comments and helpful suggestions. We are grateful for your advice and suggestions, as they have been helpful in our efforts to revise and improve the quality of the manuscript. We have addressed all comments and we hope that we revised the manuscript accordingly.

On behalf of all authors.

Sincerely,

Petra Hudler

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In your Ethics approval section, please clarify whether consent obtained from participants was written or verbal. If the consent was verbal please include reasoning for this and state if an ethics committee approved this method of obtaining consent.

Please also clarify whether consent was obtained from the blood donors.

Response 1 and Response 2. Thank you for this observation. We have rewritten the Ethics Approval Section in order to better present the background of ethical evaluation for this study. We have obtained the informed written consent from the patients before surgery. The ethical board decided to waive the requirement to obtain the informed consent from the healthy blood donors due to the following criteria: (i) the research involved no or minimal risk, (ii) the samples were obtained during the regular medical examinations, therefore would be done regardless of this study, (iii) only the remains of the samples were used for this study, (iv) the waiver would not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects, (v) the results of the study would have no effect on the subjects, and (vi) this study did not use any individually identifiable as well as medical or any other sensitive information regarding these subjects.

The rewritten section is on page 21 of the submitted manuscript: “Ethical approval for this study and for the use of patient’s personal and medical data from the Clinical Pathology and Cytology at the University Clinical Center Sarajevo was issued by the Ethical Committee at the University Clinical Centre Sarajevo (No. 0302-36765). The data were analyzed anonymously. Written informed consents from all the patients for using their samples for the purposes of this study were obtained prior to surgery. The requirement to obtain the consents from the control individuals had been waived due to the following reasons: the control participants were healthy blood donors, randomly selected upon regular medical examinations whereby only the remains of their samples were used for the purposes of the present study, no additional risks to the subjects existed, no individually identifiable as well as medical or any other sensitive information were used for this study, the study would not adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects, and the results of the study would have no effect on the subjects.”

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 colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Response 3: We have removed all the highlights, tracked changes and other markings in the manuscript.

Reviewer reports:

Ana Elizabete Silva, PhD (Reviewer 1): The authors accepted the suggestions for correction of the manuscript and responded adequately to all questions. Therefore, I consider that the revised manuscript is suitable for publication.
Response: Thank you for your constructive review and re-reading the revised version of the manuscript. We appreciate your valuable comments and suggestions, which helped us to improve the quality of the manuscript.