Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Prognostic Association of SPAG5 Gene Expression in Breast Cancer Patients with Systematic Therapy

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Author’s response to reviews:

Responses to the Editor’s Comments on the Paper BCAN-D-19-02733 entitled

The Prognostic Association of SPAG5 Gene Expression in Breast Cancer Patients with Systematic Therapy

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BMC Cancer

The authors would like to thank all the editors and reviewers for the constructive comments and suggestions to improve the quality of our paper.

Editor Comments:

1 - We note the change in authorship order since original submission of the manuscript BCAN-D-18-00664R4. In line with COPE guidelines, BioMed Central requires written confirmation from all authors that they agree with any proposed changes in authorship of submitted manuscripts. We would therefore need to ask that all authors complete our change of author form, which can be downloaded from: https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5
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2 - Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship).

Response: Yes, we have changes in authorship since Dr He did originally provide the idea of searching public database to explore the expression of SPAG5 in breast cancer patients. As for Dr Rong, his work in the partial collection of data did not meet the requirements of authorship, so we listed his contribution in the acknowledgement section. Thank you for your advice.

3 - Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. Research carried out on humans must be in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration (http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html). A statement to this effect must appear in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate.

If the need for ethics approval were waived, then please clearly state this, including the name of the ethics committee that provided the exemption, together with the reasons for the waiver, or a reference to the relevant legislation.

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If the need for informed consent has been waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this with details, including the name of the Board or a reference to the relevant legislation in the ‘Ethics approval and consent to participate’ section of the Declarations.

Response: Because the data were accessed from publicly available databases, and we never met the human subjects, there was no need for informed consent nor ethics approval. We are only users of publicly available data.
5 - Please provide specific Authors' contributions for all of the authors in an Authors' contributions section and ensure they match the authors on title page, in the declarations.

Response: Yes, we have checked the Authors' contribution section and make sure they match the authors on title page.

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There is some overlap throughout with other publications.

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Response: We have used turnitin to assess the overlap and modified the corresponding parts, especially the methods section which can be seen in the revised manuscript. Thank you for your advice.

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- Consent to publish
- Availability of data and materials
- Competing interests
- Funding
- Authors' Contributions
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We thank again to all the editors and reviewers for the thoughtful and thorough reviews.

Best regards

Chenjing ZHU