Author’s response to reviews

Title: A putative role for the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) gene in a patient with cyclical Cushing’s disease

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Author’s response to reviews:

Ciarán Fitzpatrick, BSc MSc PhD
Editor
BMC Endocrine Disorders

Dear Professor Fitzpatrick,

We thank you and the reviewers for your careful consideration of our manuscript. Editor requests are followed below by our responses and manuscript excerpts. We note that the two reviewers had no further comments upon the latest review of our manuscript.

Editor:

1. Please ensure that all sections in your manuscript adhere to our submission guidelines (https://bmcendocrdisord.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/case-report)

All sections of the manuscript are consistent with those prescribed in the online submission guidelines apart from the addition of a ‘Results’ section. This was included for clarity as the genomic results described here are quite distinct from the clinical features described in the ‘Case Presentation’ section.
2. In the ethics and consent for publication section, please clarify why multiple study subjects are referred to. In addition, please clarify if the consent was written informed consent. The multiple study subjects include the two control patients as described in the following text, “Tumour immunohistochemistry showed restriction of AHR staining to the cytoplasm, whereas both cytoplasmic and nuclear AHR staining was seen in corticotrophinoma specimens from two male patients who had non-cyclical Cushing’s disease and no AHR variants on WES (Fig. 2).”

We have now clarified this in the ‘Ethics and consent for publication’ section and explained that written informed consent was obtained as follows:

“Ethics approval and consent to participate: The study was locally approved by the Central Adelaide Local Health Network Research Office (SSA/18/CALHN/445). The patient and control subjects provided written informed consent to participate.”

3. 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). Currently, the contributions of author HSS do not automatically qualify them for authorship. Please provide clarification on their contributions, or remove their name from the list of authors and place them in the “Acknowledgements” section instead. If you change the list of authors, please complete and return a change of authorship request form - https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5

HSS was integral to the design of the genetic investigations of the study and meets the authorship criteria as set out online. This has now been clarified as follows:

“Authors’ contributions: … HSS helped design the genetic investigations of the study, supervised all genetic investigations and assisted in data analysis. …”

4. In the “Funding” section of your declarations, please clarify the role of the funding body in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

This has been clarified as follows:

“Funding: SMCD is supported by an A.R. Clarkson Scholarship from the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The collection, analysis and interpretation of data were undertaken with support from a Royal Adelaide Hospital Project Grant, and with the financial and other support of the Cancer Council SA's Beat Cancer Project on behalf of its donors and the State Government of South Australia through the Department of Health.”

5. Please remove any additional files you do not want published alongside your manuscript, including cover/response letters.

We have done this.
6. 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.

We have done this.

Thank you once again for your time in reviewing our manuscript. We very much look forward to the publication of our manuscript in your journal.

Kind regards,

Dr Sunita MC De Sousa
Corresponding author on behalf of all authors