Author’s response to reviews


Authors:

Ahmed Abdelhafiz (ahmed.samir@nci.cu.edu.eg)
Eman Sultan (eman.sultan@alexmed.edu.eg)
Hany Ziady (Ziadyhany@gmail.com)
Ebtesam Ahmed (Ahmede1@stjohns.edu)
Walaa Khairy (wallaakhairy@yahoo.com)
Douaa Sayed (douaa_sayed@hotmail.com)
Rana Zaki (dr.ranamellitus@gmail.com)
Merhan Fouda (fouda.merhan@yahoo.com)
Rania Labib (raniamlabib@gmail.com)

Version: 4 Date: 30 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Coore,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. Kindly find our responses to the points mentioned in your letter below.

1. Thank you for detailing the consent procedures in the Declarations section. Please be sure to include the following points in the Methods section and remove it from the Declarations.

   The mentioned points were included in the methods section as follows:

   "The questions were related to the ethical norms followed in Egypt, especially for protection of the participants' rights and their data. We are providing here three examples for the standard operating procedures (SOP) from the Egyptian National Cancer Institute (ENCI) biobank that ensure that these rights are preserved."
The first SOP is the ENCI biobank SOP about the informed process. The following paragraph is about presenting the informed consent to a subject who can’t read “If the subject/representative cannot read, obtain an impartial witness to be present during the entire consent discussion to attest that the information in the consent form and any other information provided was accurately explained to, and apparently understood by the subject/representative, and that consent was freely given. The witness may be a family member or friend. The witness should not be a person involved in the design, conduct or reporting of the research study.”

The second one is the ENCI biobank SOP about withdrawal of consent. The following paragraph is in the procedure section of the SOP “The participant may withdraw consent at any time. Personnel at the tumor biobank should take appropriate steps to respect the will of the participant and ensure that the participant is able to withdraw without consequence.”

The third SOP is the ENCI biobank SOP about information access control. The following paragraph is in the purpose section of the SOP “ENCI biobank is intended to manage the safekeeping of clinical and sample data in its custody, and it is accountable for limiting disclosure of information, maintaining privacy of the participants and safeguarding the integrity of the information.”

2. Please include the following in the Discussion section instead of the Declarations:

"The small sample size and the selection bias associated with obtaining information from only those who agreed to participate in a research study represent limitations in this study."

• This has been included in the Discussion section as follows

"Our results showed similar attitudes towards donating samples for biomedical research to the attitudes of the general public in Germany, Jordan and Sweden. Although our results are similar to the published literature, we think that the small sample size and the selection bias associated with obtaining information from only those who agreed to participate in a research study is a limitation in our study."

3. Please note that the Availability of data statement should detail the location of the raw data generated or analysed during this study. We note that only summarized data is presented in this manuscript, so we would like to ask that you amend this statement. If there are any ethics restrictions preventing the sharing of the raw data, please state this. If you do not wish to share the data, please include a reason why it will not be shared in this section.

We added this statement in the declarations section

Availability of data and materials
The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

4. Please proofread and ensure that when you upload your revised submission that it is in the final form for publication. Please remove any tracked changes, colored text, or highlighting and include only a single clean copy of the manuscript. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

  • This was done.