Author’s response to reviews

Title: Hereditary Cancer Syndromes in Latino Populations: Genetic Characterization and Surveillance Guidelines.

Authors:

Marcia Cruz-Correa (marcia.cruz1@upr.edu)
Julyann Pérez-Mayoral (julyann.perez@upr.edu)
Julie Dutil (jdutil@psm.edu)
Miguel Echenique (echegaz@pol.net)
Rafael Mosquera (rafaelmosquera53@gmail.com)
Keila Rivera (keila.rivera11@upr.edu)
Sharee Umpierre (sharee.umpierre@upr.edu)
Segundo Rodriguez-Quillichini (segundo.rodriguez@upr.edu)
Maria Gonzalez-Pons (maria.gonzalez9@upr.edu)
Myrta Olivera (myrtyolivera@gmail.com)
Sherly Pardo (sherly.pardo@upr.edu)

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Author’s response to reviews:

September 2, 2016

Bryony A. Thompson Ph.D.
Editor, Hereditary Cancer in Clinical Practice

Re: Manuscript reference number HCCP-D-16-00012

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Thanks for the insightful review by the reviewers and for considering our manuscript entitled “Hereditary Cancer Syndromes in Latino Populations: Genetic Characterization and Surveillance...
Guidelines” for publication in Hereditary Cancer in Clinical Practice. We appreciate the opportunity to resubmit our revised manuscript for review. All changes made to the manuscript according to the reviewer’s suggestions were incorporated and marked in blue color font to facilitate the re-evaluation of the revised manuscript. We have incorporated the reviewer’s recommendation in the revised manuscript as follows:

Reviewer #1:

“The idea of this review is fairly appropriate: it is important to address specific issues of cancer heredity in distinct populations, and particularly in Hispanics, who account for significant share of residents of North and South Americas. However, this review largely fails to provide an overview on this topic. It is important to explain to the readers, who are Hispanics, how the migration from Spain and Portugal occurred in the past, and what are the (exact) ethnic roots of people residing in various countries of Northern, Central and South Americas. While addressing the patterns of mutations, they need to be systematically compared with those in West European ethnic groups, as well as with the spectrum of mutations in Spain and Portugal. The review contains high amount of information irrelevant to the topic discussed, i.e. general information about cancer syndromes and general information about non-selected (sporadic, non-hereditary) cancers in Hispanics”

To address Reviewer #1 concerns, we divided his statement in to several working points:

• Point #1: “It is important to explain to the readers, who are Hispanics, how the migration from Spain and Portugal occurred in the past, and what are the (exact) ethnic roots of people residing in various countries of Northern, Central and South Americas.”

To address this point, we included a paragraph in the Introduction (page 3) that briefly summarized the historic context in which the different Hispanic subpopulations were created.

• Point #2: “While addressing the patterns of mutations, they need to be systematically compared with those in West European ethnic groups, as well as with the spectrum of mutations in Spain and Portugal.”

To address point #2, we added information on the mutations found in Spain and Portugal on the BRCA1/2, APC and MMR genes (Tables 1, 2 and 3). In addition, in each section we commented about the mutations found in Spain and Portugal and their similarities or differences than the ones observed in Latin America (pages 5-6, 9 and 10-11).

• Point #3: “The review contains high amount of information irrelevant to the topic discussed, i.e. general information about cancer syndromes and general information about non-selected (sporadic, non-hereditary) cancers in Hispanics”

As per the reviewer’s request, we eliminated information pertaining to differences in the presentation of sporadic breast cancer between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites.
Reviewer #2:

“General idea of the paper is attractive. We will be glad to publish this kind of paper providing real comparison of incidence, clinics and molecular characteristics between Hispanics and other ethnic groups confirming or excluding specificity of Hispanic ethnicity group.”

• We addressed Reviewer #2 concerns regarding the clinical presentation and molecular characteristics of the hereditary cancers in page 7 for hereditary breast cancer (BRCA-associated breast cancer) and page 10 for Lynch Syndrome (MLH1 vs MSH2). However, and to the best of our ability, we did not find any articles addressing differences in incidence of hereditary cancers in Hispanics.

Thanks for the consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Marcia Cruz-Correa, M.D., Ph.D., FASGE, AGAF
Associate Professor of Medicine, Surgery and Biochemistry
University or Puerto Rico School of Medicine
UPR Comprehensive Cancer Center