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**Dear Dr. Hongwei Chen**,

We would greatly appreciate if you can consider our manuscript entitled “Measurement of AhR ligands in the tissues of colon cancer patients with XRE luciferase reporter” by, Bystriakova Margarita, Sergei Koshkin, Tolkunova Elena for review by the Editorial Board of “**Journal of oncology research**” as a regular research paper.

Our group is interested in the role of activity of AHR in colon cancer cells, especially chemoresistance and self-maintenance of cancer stem cells. We examined AhR expression in human colon cancer and adjacent non-tumor tissue. AhR expression level was about 2-7 times higher in tumor tissue samples than in adjacent non-tumor samples (in 82% of samples). For evaluation of the level of agonists of AhR in tumor samples and blood of patients with colon cancer, we develop reporter construct containing XRE. The concentration of xenobiotic response element (XRE) ligands is higher than in the blood of healthy people in 86% of patients. The proposed test system will allow the using of the AhR ligand level as an additional diagnostic marker in the treatment of colon cancer. We are glad to present this reporter as the simple and not expansive tool to analyze AhR ligands in biological samples.

These data have not been published elsewhere and the manuscript is not under consideration for publication in another journal.

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The authors indicate no potential conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

The paper received the ethical approval of St. Petersburg clinical scientific and practical center of specialized types of medical care (oncological) Ethics Committee. Written consent was obtained from all participants prior to the study.

Each credited author has had a significant contribution to the article.

We are looking forward to hear from you,

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

Elena Tolkunova Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, Group leader