British Journal of Cancer (2002) 87, 1479

www.bjcancer.com

Letter to the editor

'SIRT8' expressed in thyroid cancer is actually SIRT7

R Frye*[,1]

[1]*Pittsburgh VA Med Center, Pathology (132L-U), University Drive C, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, PA 15240, USA*

British Journal of Cancer (2002) **87,** 1479. doi:10.1038/sj.bjc.6600635 www.bjcancer.com

De Nigris *et al* (2002) claim to have isolated a cDNA prepared from thyroid papillary carcinoma that represents a novel gene of the silent information regulator (SIR) protein family, which the authors designated SIRT8. In fact, examination of their data reveals that the cDNA is derived from the previously characterised SIRT7 sequence (Frye, 2000). Moreover, the first 300 bases at the 5′ end of the supposedly novel cDNA depicted in Figure 1B of their article is none other than a sequence of the cloning vector, pBluescriptIISK. The bases from 323 onward appear to be the SIRT7 sequence with some scattered sequencing errors. The small block of predicted amino-acids around codon 221 that diverge from SIRT7 can be accounted for by two 1-base frame shifts that are probably sequence artifacts. The 'SIRT8' sequence WYTGAGISTAASIPDYRGP is actually identical to the SIRT7 deposited in GenBank (NM_016538) which the authors incorrectly reproduced in Figure 1C of their article.

One must further doubt the validity of the authors' statement on 'the homology of SIR-T8 with the telomerase proteins' because, while both types of protein have been implicated in ageing, they do not share structural homology or similar molecular functions. It is regrettable that neither the authors nor the editorial review process identified these errors.

*Correspondence: Dr RA Frye; E-mail: frye01@pitt.edu

REFERENCES

de Nigris F, Cerutti J, Morelli C, Califano D, Chiariotti L, Viglietto G, Santelli G, Fusco A (2002) Isolation of a SIR-like gene, SIR-T8, that is overexpressed in thyroid carcinoma cell lines and tissues. *Br J Cancer* **86:** 917 – 923

Frye RA (2000) Phylogenetic classification of prokaryotic and eukaryotic Sir2-like proteins. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* **273:** 793 – 798

Corrigendum

Isolation of a SIR-like gene, SIR-T8, that is overexpressed in thyroid carcinoma cell lines and tissues

F de Nigris, J Cerutti, C Morelli, D Califano, L Chiariotti, G Viglietto, G Santelli and A Fusco*

British Journal of Cancer (2002) **87,** 1479. doi:10.1038/sj.bjc.6600636 www.bjcancer.com

Correction to: *British Journal of Cancer* (2002) **86**, 917 – 923. doi: 10.1038/sj.bjc.6600156

We have reviewed our data about the cloning of the novel putative SIR-like gene and we accept Dr Frye's assertions (Frye, 2002). We are grateful to him for his corrections. Therefore, we retract the claim for a novel SIR-like gene, SIR-T8. We apologize to the scientific community for the misinterpretation of our data. However, we would like to point out that the main point of our article, that is the finding that SIR-T7 is overexpressed in human thyroid carcinoma cell lines and fresh biopsies, remains valid.

*Correspondence: A Fusco; E-mail: afusco@napoli.com

REFERENCES

Frye R (2002) 'SIRT8' expressed in thyroid cancer is actually SIRT7. *British Journal of Cancer* **87:** 1479