

July 21, 2008

Re: 2008 IHPBA Warren Fellowship progress report part 3

Dear the Executive Committee of IHPBA,

I would like to report the progress of my project in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> month at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

As mentioned in the previous progress report, we attempted to extract RNA from the banked liver tumor tissues of patients who underwent liver resection for colorectal cancer. When we processed the first 90 cases, we encountered various technical problems; many samples from patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy contained extensive necrosis and it was difficult to retrieve viable tumor tissues using macro-dissection, and even if viable tumor tissue could be retrieved from the frozen sample, extracted RNA had degraded and some cases were not suitable for gene microarray study. Because of these sample/technical limitations, it was found that the yield of high quality RNA from our banked tissues was fairly low as 45-50%.

To obtain the adequate sample size, we decided to extend study period and try to process the samples as many as possible. Currently we are processing extra 240 tumors. Once the number of cases with high quality RNA reaches to 80-90s, we will proceed to microarray analysis.

Sincerely yours,

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