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Editors
World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Dear Editors,

Thank you for your kind and prompt response to my review submission. Your comments have been addressed as follows:

Comment #1: Format of my name, institution, address has been revised. Dr Arthur Hill at the Department of Food Science has given me permission to use the Department of Food Science as my affiliation, so I have made a change from "unaffiliated" to the Department of Food Science for my affiliation and address. The thank you to Dr Hill in the acknowledgements section was removed, since it seemed redundant. (An affiliation normally implies library privileges type of support.)

Comment #2: *Author contributions* section has been completed.

Comment #3: *Correspondence to* section has been completed.

Comment #4: *Telephone and Fax* numbers have been reformatted.

Comment #5: Signed pdf copy of the *Conflict of Interest Statement* has been included.

Comment #6: *Audio core tip* has been included. I hope the quality is acceptable. My older system has no settings which I can adjust. The quality sounds good to me, but I can redo it on an updated unit if necessary.

Comment # 7: I included a considerable number of older references, and books in the references which do not have PMIDs or DOIs. The older journal articles and books were scholarly works. Some of the references I used are very difficult to obtain, and I made revisions to the references as follows:

The reference numbers correspond to the numbers used in my original submission.

Ref #11 Pott P article of 1775. This article seems to have recently become available electronically, so Shimkin's 1980 reprint of Pott's article was deleted.

Ref #12 von Volkmann was a reference to a short section of a German text book which I could not obtain. I replaced this with an article written by Volkmann in German which I was able to obtain.

Ref #15 Harting and Hesse is an article in German, which I could not obtain. I replaced it with an English review of the article by Greenberg and Selikoff. The English review has a PMID.

Ref # 23 Frieben is in German and is difficult to obtain. It has been replaced with a review by Haagensen. Haagensen is in English. He briefly discusses Frieben, is more available than Frieben, and has a DOI.

Ref # 28 Hutchinson's article of 1888 seems to have become available electronically, so Shimkin's 1980 reprint of Hutchinson's article was deleted.

Ref # 40 Clunet is a thesis in French which is difficult to obtain. This was replaced by a journal article by Clunet and his supervisor based on the thesis work.

Ref # 44 Yamagiwa K, Ichikawa K of 1918 was a reprint by Shimkin of 1980. It was replaced with a similar reference with a PMID and a DOI.

Ref # 163 Reed et al (1901) has been replaced with Reed et al (1900). My original reference is difficult to obtain, had no PMID or DOI. The new reference has a PMID and has been cited more frequently.

Ref # 333 concerning new treatments for HCV was replaced with a more current reference by the same author.

Ref # 409 by Blount concerns the discovery of aflatoxin. It has no PMID or DOI, and is difficult to find. It has been replaced with a reference, which is a frequently cited book chapter, with a DOI. The book chapter describes the discovery of aflatoxin and includes the reference by Blount.

All of the authors are listed for reference #150.

I wrote to the IARC to query whether the Monographs have DOIs, but they confirmed that the Monographs do not yet have DOIs.

Additional changes not requested

A brief paragraph was added explaining how the development of methods to transplant cancers seemed to prove that infectious agents were not the cause of most cancers in the early 1900s. I found this very interesting, because it has perplexed me how there could arise a consensus that cancer is *not caused* by infectious agents. This helps one to understand how the consensus developed. The paragraph is found on page 14.

The core point has also been revised. A statement regarding the difficulties of demonstrating that infectious agents cause cancer has been added. There were further minor word changes to the rest of the core point.

Regards,

C Brian Blackadar