Author's response to reviews

Title: Dexamethasone inhibits the HSV-tk/ ganciclovir bystander effect in malignant glioma cells

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Sir,

Please find herewith a revised version of our paper entitled 'Dexamethasone inhibits the HSV-tk/ ganciclovir bystander effect in malignant glioma cells' (MS # 1397020727460230), in which we answer the few comments made by Professor Mesnil in his second revision of the manuscript. Specifically, Figure 2 has been improved as suggested, by showing the appearance of confluent cultures of LN18 and U87 cells after iontophoresis of Lucifer Yellow as well as the FACS analysis of the GJIC of LN18 in control conditions and after treatment with DEX. The legend of figure 2 has been modified accordingly, and a sentence has been added to the 'results' section of the manuscript (page 7, last line) to point at these modifications.

We further thank Professor Mesnil for all his valuable comments and suggestions, and remain yours for any additional information you might require.

Pierre A Robe, MD, PhD