



Life Science Alliance

# Evaluation of colorectal cancer subtypes and cell lines using deep learning

Jonathan Ronen, Sikander Hayat, and Altuna Akalin

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## Review Timeline:

Submission Date:	2019-08-07
Editorial Decision:	2019-08-07
Revision Received:	2019-09-20
Editorial Decision:	2019-10-21
Revision Received:	2019-11-04
Accepted:	2019-11-05

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Scientific Editor: Andrea Leibfried

## Transaction Report:

(Note: With the exception of the correction of typographical or spelling errors that could be a source of ambiguity, letters and reports are not edited. The original formatting of letters and referee reports may not be reflected in this compilation.)

Please note that the manuscript was previously reviewed at another journal and the reports were taken into account in the decision-making process at Life Science Alliance. Since the original reviews are not subject to Life Science Alliance's transparent review process policy, the reports and author response cannot be published.

August 7, 2019

Re: Life Science Alliance manuscript #LSA-2019-00517-T

Dr Altuna Akalin  
Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology  
Max Delbrueck Center for Molecular Medicine  
Robert Roessle str 10  
Berlin 13125  
Germany

Dear Dr. Akalin,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript entitled "Evaluation of colorectal cancer subtypes and cell lines using deep learning" to Life Science Alliance. The manuscript was assessed by expert reviewers at another journal before and the reviewers transferred those reports to us with your permission.

The reviewers appreciated the method, but were concerned that the approach was not fully unsupervised. They also thought that further validation of the framework would be needed. We would like to offer publication of this work in Life Science Alliance based on the reports already at hand and pending revision. Please provide a point-by-point response and accordingly changes to the manuscript text and discussion. The following specific concerns of the reviewers should also get addressed: Rev#1, point on maui performance (third paragraph), point on inconsistency (forth paragraph); Rev#2, point on cross-validation.

To upload the revised version of your manuscript, please log in to your account:

<https://lsa.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>

You will be guided to complete the submission of your revised manuscript and to fill in all necessary information. Please get in touch in case you do not know or remember your login name.

While you are revising your manuscript, please also attend to the below editorial points to help expedite the publication of your manuscript. Please direct any editorial questions to the journal office.

The typical timeframe for revisions is three months.

Thank you for this interesting contribution to Life Science Alliance. We are looking forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Andrea Leibfried, PhD  
Executive Editor  
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Meyerhofstr. 1  
69117 Heidelberg, Germany

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#### A. THESE ITEMS ARE REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS

- A letter addressing the reviewers' comments point by point.
- An editable version of the final text (.DOC or .DOCX) is needed for copyediting (no PDFs).
- High-resolution figure, supplementary figure and video files uploaded as individual files: See our detailed guidelines for preparing your production-ready images, <http://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>
- Summary blurb (enter in submission system): A short text summarizing in a single sentence the study (max. 200 characters including spaces). This text is used in conjunction with the titles of papers, hence should be informative and complementary to the title and running title. It should describe the context and significance of the findings for a general readership; it should be written in the present tense and refer to the work in the third person. Author names should not be mentioned.

#### B. MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION AND FORMATTING:

Full guidelines are available on our Instructions for Authors page, <http://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>

We encourage our authors to provide original source data, particularly uncropped/-processed electrophoretic blots and spreadsheets for the main figures of the manuscript. If you would like to add source data, we would welcome one PDF/Excel-file per figure for this information. These files will be linked online as supplementary "Source Data" files.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT:** It is Life Science Alliance policy that if requested, original data images must be made available. Failure to provide original images upon request will result in unavoidable delays in publication. Please ensure that you have access to all original microscopy and blot data images before submitting your revision.\*\*\*

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October 21, 2019

RE: Life Science Alliance Manuscript #LSA-2019-00517-TR

Dr. Altuna Akalin  
Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology  
Max Delbrueck Center for Molecular Medicine  
Robert Roessle str 10  
Berlin 13125  
Germany

Dear Dr. Akalin,

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript entitled "Evaluation of colorectal cancer subtypes and cell lines using deep learning". Please excuse the delay in getting back to you. I had asked the original reviewer #2 to take a look at your revised manuscript for a technical re-review of the revision points I had previously outlined to you, and I had to give the reviewer more time due to her/his very busy schedule.

As you will see, the reviewer appreciates your response and the introduced changes and we'd be thus happy to publish your paper in Life Science Alliance pending final revisions necessary to meet our formatting guidelines:

- please upload all figures, also the supplementary figures, as individual files and without legends; all figure legends and tables should remain in the main manuscript text file
- please provide the manuscript text in docx format
- please mention all depicted panels in the figure legends (eg, see Fig S3, S4, S5)
- please list 10 authors et al in the reference list (you can use EMBOreports style in case you are using a reference manager)

If you are planning a press release on your work, please inform us immediately to allow informing our production team and scheduling a release date.

To upload the final version of your manuscript, please log in to your account:

<https://lsa.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>

You will be guided to complete the submission of your revised manuscript and to fill in all necessary information. Please get in touch in case you do not know or remember your login name.

To avoid unnecessary delays in the acceptance and publication of your paper, please read the following information carefully.

#### A. FINAL FILES:

These items are required for acceptance.

- An editable version of the final text (.DOC or .DOCX) is needed for copyediting (no PDFs).

-- High-resolution figure, supplementary figure and video files uploaded as individual files: See our detailed guidelines for preparing your production-ready images, <http://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>

-- Summary blurb (enter in submission system): A short text summarizing in a single sentence the study (max. 200 characters including spaces). This text is used in conjunction with the titles of papers, hence should be informative and complementary to the title. It should describe the context and significance of the findings for a general readership; it should be written in the present tense and refer to the work in the third person. Author names should not be mentioned.

## B. MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION AND FORMATTING:

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We encourage our authors to provide original source data, particularly uncropped/-processed electrophoretic blots and spreadsheets for the main figures of the manuscript. If you would like to add source data, we would welcome one PDF/Excel-file per figure for this information. These files will be linked online as supplementary "Source Data" files.

**\*\*Submission of a paper that does not conform to Life Science Alliance guidelines will delay the acceptance of your manuscript.\*\***

**\*\*It is Life Science Alliance policy that if requested, original data images must be made available to the editors. Failure to provide original images upon request will result in unavoidable delays in publication. Please ensure that you have access to all original data images prior to final submission.\*\***

**\*\*The license to publish form must be signed before your manuscript can be sent to production. A link to the electronic license to publish form will be sent to the corresponding author only. Please take a moment to check your funder requirements.\*\***

**\*\*Reviews, decision letters, and point-by-point responses associated with peer-review at Life Science Alliance will be published online, alongside the manuscript. If you do want to opt out of having the reviewer reports and your point-by-point responses displayed, please let us know immediately.\*\***

Thank you for your attention to these final processing requirements. Please revise and format the manuscript and upload materials within 7 days.

Thank you for this interesting contribution, we look forward to publishing your paper in Life Science Alliance.

Sincerely,

Andrea Leibfried, PhD  
Executive Editor  
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Reviewer #2 (Comments to the Authors (Required)):

The revised manuscript addresses my previous concerns adequately, and I recommend acceptance.

November 5, 2019

RE: Life Science Alliance Manuscript #LSA-2019-00517-TRR

Dr. Altuna Akalin  
Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology  
Max Delbrueck Center for Molecular Medicine  
Robert Roessle str 10  
Berlin 13125  
Germany

Dear Dr. Akalin,

Thank you for submitting your Methods entitled "Evaluation of colorectal cancer subtypes and cell lines using deep learning". It is a pleasure to let you know that your manuscript is now accepted for publication in Life Science Alliance. Congratulations on this interesting work.

The final published version of your manuscript will be deposited by us to PubMed Central upon online publication.

Your manuscript will now progress through copyediting and proofing. It is journal policy that authors provide original data upon request.

Reviews, decision letters, and point-by-point responses associated with peer-review at Life Science Alliance will be published online, alongside the manuscript. If you do want to opt out of having the reviewer reports and your point-by-point responses displayed, please let us know immediately.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT: If you will be unreachable at any time, please provide us with the email address of an alternate author. Failure to respond to routine queries may lead to unavoidable delays in publication.\*\*\*

Scheduling details will be available from our production department. You will receive proofs shortly before the publication date. Only essential corrections can be made at the proof stage so if there are any minor final changes you wish to make to the manuscript, please let the journal office know now.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS:

Authors are required to distribute freely any materials used in experiments published in Life Science Alliance. Authors are encouraged to deposit materials used in their studies to the appropriate repositories for distribution to researchers.

You can contact the journal office with any questions, contact [contact@life-science-alliance.org](mailto:contact@life-science-alliance.org)

Again, congratulations on a very nice paper. I hope you found the review process to be constructive and are pleased with how the manuscript was handled editorially. We look forward to future exciting submissions from your lab.

Sincerely,

Andrea Leibfried, PhD  
Executive Editor  
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