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Anti-gp120 and anti-p24 aptamers: potential for use as flow cytometry reagents

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Answers to examiner

Editing

Examiner: Spacing: 1.5

Font of body text: 12

Heading: “You cannot have your main heading having the same font as the sub-heading”.

- The spacing and body font of the text have been adjusted throughout the document. In addition, the font sizes of the heading and sub-headings have now been changed. For example, see chapter 1, page 2, heading 1.2 and sub-heading 1.2.1.

Reference reporting

Examiner: “Sometimes the references in the text are reported as newest publications to old ones e.g in page 9 (paragraph 2 line 5: Zhou et al., 2010; Douek et al., 2006) vs old references to newest (paragraph 2 line 9 Calarese et al., 2003; Botos and Wlodawer, 2005). Choose one type throughout the dissertation”

- The text references have been reported from newest to oldest throughout the dissertation. For example (Calarese *et al*., 2003; Botos and Wlodawer, 2005) has been rearranged as (Botos and Wlodawer, 2005; Calarese et al., 2003), see page 8, paragraph 1, line 9.

Examiner: “In addition, page 9 paragraph 2 line 7: Douek *et al*., 2006; Ofek et al., 2004; Cardoso et al., 2005. This kind of referencing style is not acceptable and should instead be Douek et al., 2006; Cardoso *et al*., 2005; Ofek *et al*., 2004. Please change throughout the dissertation”.

- The references throughout the dissertation have now been reported in order from newest to oldest. For example the references Douek *et al*., 2006; Ofek *et al*., 2004; Cardoso *et al*., 2005, have been reported as Douek *et al*., 2006; Cardoso *et al*., 2005; Ofek *et al*., 2004. See page 8, paragraph 1, line 7.

Examiner: “In page 15 paragraph 2, line 3…developed by Jenison et al., in 1994? Should normally be…developed by Jenison *et al* (2014)… please change throughout the dissertation”.

- The referencing has been changed throughout the document. For examples …..Jenison *et al*., in 1994…has been reported as Jenison *et al* (1994). See page 14, paragraph 1, line 1 and 4.

Examiner: “In page 21 line 1:… by London et al., (2015)…should be changed to…. By London et al (2015). Please change throughout the dissertation”

- The reference: … by London *et al*., (2015) has been changed to…. by London *et al* (2015). See chapter 2, page 20, paragraph 3, line 1.

Examiner: “NB: all references cited in the answers to the examiner’s major comment should be incorporated in the dissertation.”

- All the references in the answers to the previous examiner’s major comments have now been added to the dissertation. See chapter 1, page 4, paragraph 1, line 2 (Blumenthal *et al.*, 2012; Willey *et a*l., 1988) and chapter 2, page 23, paragraph 2, line 3 (Nutiu and Li, 2005, Potyrailo *et al*., 1998).

Citing companies HQ

Examiner: “In page 18 paragraph 1, line 7: …by Integrated DNA Technology Inc. (City, abbreviation of State, Country) = (Coralville, IA, USA). “

- All cited company headquarters have been reported in the form (City, abbreviation of State, Country). For example, Promega (Madison, WI, USA) and Sigma Aldrish (St Louis, MI, USA), please see chapter 2, pages 16 to 36.

Writing style

Examiner: “A space should be included between a heading and the text below it.”

- A space has been included between headings and the texts below them throughout the dissertation. For example, a space has now been inserted between the heading: The HIV pandemic, and the text below it. See Chapter 1, page 2.

Examiner: “Two spaces should be included after a figure or a graph or a table for easy flow.”

- Two spaces have been included after figures, graphs and tables throughout the dissertation. For example, two spaces have been inserted between Figure 1.1 and the text below it.

Examiner: “Throughout the dissertation, there are huge spaces after a paragraph and before a figure. This needs to be addressed.”

- The huge spaces between a paragraph and a figure have been filled with text throughout the dissertation, for example, see chapter 2, page 16.

Examiner: “Throughout the dissertation, there are mistakes such as when reporting degrees e.g page 18 paragraph 2 line 8: a space was inserted between 37 and °C. This needs to be corrected.”

- The space inserted between 37 and °C has now been deleted. See chapter 2, page 18, paragraph 2, line 8 and page 28, paragraph 1, line 4.

Examiner: “In page 20 paragraph 1 line 2: you wrote…54 nucleotides in length and has molecular weight of ….. There is “a” missing before the molecular weight.

- The sentence …54 nucleotides in length and has molecular weight of…. Has now been corrected to ….54 nucleotides in length and has a molecular weight of… See chapter 2, page 19, paragraph 3, line 1.

Examiner: “In general, a paragraph in a dissertation should not exceed 10 lines. But in this dissertation, there are paragraphs of up to 17 lines, e.g in page 24.”

- All paragraphs in the entire dissertation have been revised and contain a maximum of 10 lines in length. For example, see chapter 2, page 24, paragraphs 2 and 3.