Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a modified version of my Journal Colum “Interview with Dr. McKale Montgomery”. To address the concerns and comments raised by the reviewers, I made the following changes to improve and clarify the manuscript. It is my hope that these changes make the manuscript acceptable for publication in Microreviews in Cell and Molecular Biology.

Sincerely,

Taytum Crockett

1. state if you found comments helpful
2. What changes did you make

**Reviewer 1:**

1. I found these comments to be somewhat helpful. This reviewer noted that I was supposed to summarize a research article written by the person I interviewed. This reviewer also stated that my column had a logical flow.
2. I did not make any changes to my manuscript based off of these comments. There are publication rights and copyrights that keep me from using the specific research articles provided by the person I interviewed, so I was not able to summarize the article in my paper. This was previously approved by my TA and Writing Fellow.

**Reviewer 2:**

1. I did not find these comments to be very helpful in improving my journal column. The reviewer stated that there is no clear topic of discussion.
2. I did not make any changes based off of these comments. I re-read my manuscript, as well as the other reviewers comments and noted that they all saw the clear topic of discussion.

**Reviewer 3:**

1. I did not find these comments to be very helpful in improving my journal column. The reviewer stated that the manuscript is not written in chronological order.
2. I did not make any changes based off of these comments. I re-read my manuscript and wasn’t able to find a way to reorganize interview questions in chronological order.

**Reviewer 4:**

1. I did not find these comments to be very helpful in improving my journal column. The reviewer stated that the manuscript has formatting issues.
2. I did not make any changes based off of these comments. The reviewer did not provide any explanation as to how the formatting was an issue, and we were not provided with a specific format to follow.

Interview with Dr. McKale Montgomery, PhD, RD

By Taytum Crockett

At the beginning of the Spring semester, I was tasked with finding a topic I wanted to research and write about. At first, I chose stem cell therapy for the treatment of cancer. However, upon further research, I broadened my topic to cancer immunotherapy - types of cancer treatment that utilize the body’s innate and adaptive immune system. I felt it would give me a better chance to learn more rather than just focus on one topic.

I decided to interview Dr. McKale Montgomery, an Assistant Professor in the Nutritional Sciences department at Oklahoma State University. I chose to interview Dr. Montgomery due to her different research interests including cell metabolism, cancer cell biology, epigenetics, nutrition, and dietetics. While I noticed that cancer was in one of her main fields of research, I thought it would also be really neat to learn a little bit about her other interests.

For our interview, I settled on three different questions that I thought would cover Dr. Montgomery’s research. Our interview is below (and somewhat redacted), Dr. Montgomery’s answers in italics.

**Q**: **Could you give a brief summary of your research interests, as well as why you became interested in it?**

**A**: “*Broadly, I would say that I am interested in studying nutrient-gene interactions and the development of chronic disease. More specifically though, I primarily focus on iron and how it’s metabolism is influenced by disease-associated genetic mutations.”*

She went on to further explain how her lab has extensively studied mutations in the tumor suppressor gene (TP53) – which is the most frequently mutated gene in all types of cancer in humans – alter iron metabolism. Dr. Montgomery explained that they use the findings from their extensive research to discover methods that can help to develop different strategies for chemotherapy.

**Q**: **What is a recent result of a project that you’re most excited about?**

**A**: *“We have just finished doing a comprehensive proteomics* (large scale study of proteomes – which are proteins that an organism produces) *profiling of cells expressing either wild-type TP53, or one of the six most common TP53 mutation types under control and iron deficient conditions.*” Dr. Montgomery stated that her lab’s analysis was able to express around 7,000 different types of proteins in 80 different samples, which helped them obtain a large amount of data that they will be able to continue to use well into the future. She believes that her lab will be able to use all of this data to help develop more projects and publications.

**Q**: **Do you have a specific scientific publication that was the most interesting to work on?**

**A**: *“I enjoyed getting my most recent publication out because that was a project I started while I was post-Doctoral, and it took a long time to get a good comprehensive story together. And, it got published in a really great journal so that was exciting too.”* Dr. Montgomery stated that she enjoys writing review articles because it gives her an opportunity to stay up-to-date in her field, as well as being an inspiration for new experiments.

Dr. Montgomery also gave me the opportunity to read through two of her works, which include her most recently published article “HDAC inhibition induces EMT and alterations in cellular iron homeostasis to augment ferroptosis sensitivity in SW13 cells” and one of her favorite review articles she’s written “Epigenetic Gene Regulation by Dietary Compounds in Cancer Prevention.” I found both of these articles to be very informative, and it actually sparked me to look through some other related research articles!