Regarding Bocklage et al. “Regarding Dettloff et al. Mammary Analog Secretory Carcinoma (MASC) Involving the Thyroid Gland: A Report of First 3 Cases”

Jennifer Dettloff¹ · Raja R. Seethala² · Todd M. Stevens³ · Margaret Brandwein-Gensler^{4,5} · Barbara A. Centeno^{6,7} · Kristen Otto⁸ · Julia A. Bridge⁹ · Justin A. Bishop¹⁰ · Marino E. Leon^{6,7,8}

Received: 24 August 2016 / Accepted: 2 September 2016 / Published online: 19 September 2016
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2016

Dear Dr. Thompson,

This letter is in response to the letter by Dr. Therese J. Bocklage et al. [1]. Our original intention was to indicate the fact that our publication was the first series of thyroid cases (albeit small) under the following title: Mammary Analog Secretory Carcinoma (MASC) involving the thyroid gland: a report of the first 3 cases [2]. We agree that the chronological events presented by Bocklage et al. are correct and the words “the first” should be removed for clarity [1].

Our paper was submitted and was received by Head and Neck Pathology on May 11, 2016. Our revision was submitted for final review on June 13, 2016. Our paper was accepted for publication on June 24, 2016 and was available for as electronic publication on July 11, 2016 [2]. Of note, in our publication, we did include the first

published case of thyroid involvement by a carcinoma with mammary analog secretory carcinoma morphology [3].

The case by Reynolds et al. became available on line as electronic publication ahead of print in Head and Neck Pathology on April 13, 2016 [4]; this single case was included in our discussion and in our references [2]. On June 10, 2016, the publication by Dogan et al. [5] became available on line as electronic publication ahead of print. This latter publication was not included in our review of literature. We echo the sentiments of the authors in that these cases are important to identify since they would (as expected) not appear to respond to radioactive iodine. We would also add given the limited case number and follow-up, there is still concern that at least some of the cases reported to date may be metastases or extension from

✉ Marino E. Leon
Marino.Leon@Moffitt.org

¹ Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

² Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

³ Department of Pathology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL, USA

⁴ Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, University at Buffalo - The State University of New York, Buffalo, NY, USA

⁵ Department of Pathology, Erie County Medical Center, Buffalo, NY, USA

⁶ Head and Neck Pathology and Cytopathology, Department of Anatomic Pathology, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

⁷ Department of Oncologic Sciences, Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Morsani College of Medicine, University of South Florida, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

⁸ Head and Neck Oncology Program, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

⁹ Departments of Pathology, Microbiology and Pediatrics and Orthopedic Surgery, Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198-3135, USA

¹⁰ Departments of Pathology, Oncology, and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21231, USA

occult sites (i.e. breast or salivary gland), yet another reason to be aware of this entity.

Respectfully,
 Jennifer Dettloff
 Raja R. Seethala
 Todd M. Stevens
 Margaret Brandwein-Gensler
 Barbara A. Centeno
 Kristen Otto
 Julia A. Bridge
 Justin A. Bishop
 Marino E. Leon

References

1. Bocklage TJ, Reynolds S, Shaheen M, Olson G, Barry M, Wu J. Regarding Dettloff et al. Mammary analog secretory carcinoma (MASC) involving the thyroid gland: a report of the first three cases. *Head Neck Pathol*. 2016. doi:[10.1007/s12105-016-0755-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12105-016-0755-0).
 2. Dettloff J, Seethala RR, Stevens TM, Brandwein-Gensler M, Centeno BA, Otto K, et al. Mammary analog secretory carcinoma (MASC) involving the thyroid gland: a report of the first 3 cases. *Head Neck Pathol*. 2016; doi:[10.1007/s12105-016-0741-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12105-016-0741-6).
 3. Stevens TM, Kovalovsky AO, Velosa C, Shi Q, Dai Q, Owen RP et al. Mammary analog secretory carcinoma, low-grade salivary duct carcinoma, and mimickers: a comparative study. *Modern Pathol Off J U S Can Acad Pathol*. 2015; 28(8):1084–1100. doi:[10.1038/modpathol.2015.64](https://doi.org/10.1038/modpathol.2015.64).
 4. Reynolds S, Shaheen M, Olson G, Barry M, Wu J, Bocklage T. A case of primary mammary analog secretory carcinoma (MASC) of the thyroid masquerading as papillary thyroid carcinoma: potentially more than a one off. *Head Neck Pathol*. 2016;10(3):405–13. doi:[10.1007/s12105-016-0715-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12105-016-0715-8).
 5. Dogan S, Wang L, Ptashkin RN, Dawson RR, Shah JP, Sherman EJ et al. Mammary analog secretory carcinoma of the thyroid gland: A primary thyroid adenocarcinoma harboring ETV6-NTRK3 fusion. *Modern Pathol Off J U S Can Acad Pathol*. 2016. doi:[10.1038/modpathol.2016.115](https://doi.org/10.1038/modpathol.2016.115).
1. Bocklage TJ, Reynolds S, Shaheen M, Olson G, Barry M, Wu J. Regarding Dettloff et al. Mammary analog secretory carcinoma