

**Response to “Unusual low sickle cell hemoglobin level” *Haematologica*. 2012;98(6):e64.**

We thank Drs Baklouti and Delaunay for the interest they showed in our work. Nevertheless, we were perfectly aware of the possibility that an HbS level below 15% could be explained by a  $\beta^+$ -thal. mutation *in cis* of the  $\beta^s$  chromosome.

Indeed, one of the co-authors of the article in the American Journal of Hematology cited by Drs Baklouti and Delaunay<sup>1</sup> is Dr. Alain Francina who is a member of our team and who is acknowledged in our paper for his advice on methodology.

Consequently, of course we sequenced the *HBB* gene promoter entirely but we did not find any abnormality.

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**References**

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