Kopp and Genack Reply: We comment on the nature of wave propagation in chiral structures with a twist defect because different terminologies have currency in this field. In Ref. [1], we designated the polarization of a standing wave in terms of the polarization of two equal-amplitude counterpropagating components in line with recent practice for describing waves in chiral structures [2,3]. This makes it possible to distinguish between right and left circularly polarized standing waves formed by counterpropagating polarized waves of the same handedness. The electric field vector of such a circularly polarized standing wave does not rotate in time, as noted in the Comment [4] and in Refs. [2,3], but it does rotate in space forming a helix with pitch equal to the wavelength. Examples of such waves are found among modes of a Fabry-Perot resonator formed by handedness-preserving mirrors and the band edge of defect modes in chiral media.

The defect mode in Ref. [1] is referred to as a localized mode because it is exponentially peaked near the defect site, as shown in Fig. 4 of Ref. [1]. When excited by a monochromatic wave from one side of the sample, our simulation did not show evidence of a component with amplitude independent of z, which is mentioned in Ref. [4]. Indeed, for $L \gg L_{co}$, transmission is exponentially small independent of the polarization of the incident wave. The intensity associated with the proposed nonlocalized component with constant amplitude [4] cannot exceed the smallest value of the total intensity within the sample, which is exponentially small at the output surface. For $L \gg L_{co}$, the lifetime of the defect mode is proportional to the ratio of the total intensity at the defect site to the intensity of the backward propagating left circularly polarized component at the input surface. This is illustrated in Figs. 4(d) and 4(e) of Ref. [5].

We agree with the author of the Comment that an analytic solution of this problem may bring to light new features that would otherwise be hidden in numerical simulations of cw transmission.

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