Reviewer’s report

Title: Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinase-12 in Aortic Dissection

Version: 2 Date: 4 April 2013

Reviewer: Edward N Baker

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of this study have made an excellent job of revising this manuscript, and have fully met all the scientific and presentational issues I raised. The article is now clear and well-written, and the conclusions well justified.

In the revised version, I noted just a very small number of errors that can be easily corrected.

Major compulsory revisions: none

Minor essential revisions:

p.10, lines 9-12. This would be better written as: “....ground in liquid nitrogen, centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 10 min at 4oC and the supernatant collected and stored at -70oC until use. The blood samples (5 ml, no anticoagulant added) were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 min at 4oC and the serum collected and stored....”

p.14, line 19. Full stop needed: “...chain reaction (qRT-PCR). They....”

p.15, line 3. Should this be: “expression of the matrix metalloproteinases MMP-11, MMP-14 and MMP-19.”

p.24. The figure caption labelled Figure 2 (on effects of Ca2+ on MMP-12 activity) actually refers to Figure 5. The captions labelled Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5 belong to Figures 2, 3, and 4.

Discretionary revisions: None

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests