Reviewer’s report

Title: DNA Methylation Subgroups and the CpG Island Methylator Phenotype in Gastric Cancer: A Comprehensive Profiling Approach

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2013

Reviewer: Rommel Burbano

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is well-written, and has very interesting findings about the CpG Island Methylator Phenotype (CIMP) in gastric cancer. Even though, the manuscript has some issues that should be clarified before its acceptance.

MINOR REVISION

Page 3, Line 37: substitute the “in” for “an”;
Page 14, Line 267: H3K4-K3K27: is this right? If so, please explain what are the consequences of this configuration;
Page 17, Line 330: If only one CpG site was evaluated for most genes, what’s the strength of the study? What are the bases to define which CpG site will be evaluated in each gene and its importance for the gene expression regulation?
Page 18, Lines 363-364: As the authors did not find genes differentially methylated between HP+ and HP- patients, explain if this could be a limitation of the technique. The same question may be applied for other clinicopathological features, such as TNM and histological type.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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