Reviewer's report

Title: Studies on best positive predictors for sustained virologic response to interferon alpha plus ribavirin therapy in Naive Chronic Hepatitis C Patients

Version: 3 Date: 10 December 2008

Reviewer: Giuliano Ramadori

Reviewer's report:

Upon your request to comment on (i) whether the reviewer's concerns are justified and thus whether they should preclude the publication of the paper and (ii) the suitability of the paper for publication:

To my view, the comments of the reviewers are fully justified. However, both minor and major issues were not seriously enough addressed by the authors. For instance, there are still many spelling and grammar mistakes within the text. The text might have been edited twice by a native speaker as stated by the authors in their reply, but probably not by somebody with a sufficient scientific background. Regarding that point, the authors should have made demand on a more professional help.

Another point is the multitude of minor mistakes and inconsistencies which are still not completely corrected. For instance, a mistake in Table 1 although stated by the authors to be corrected (‘the percentage of genotype 3 females is not 18.78’) is still present.

Regarding major concerns, i.e. largely confirmatory results and the suggestion to focus on the ethnic differences in responsiveness, have not been adequately addressed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.