Reviewer's report

Title: Changes of tau profiles in brains of the hamsters infected with scrapie strains 263K or 139A possibly associated with the alteration of phosphate kinases

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2009

Reviewer: Pedro Piccardo

Reviewer's report:

1. The number of animals used and the time of collection of the specimens has been clarified in the revised version of "Methods."

2. The authors clarified, in the response to the reviewers' comments, that the animals used in the current experiments belong to a group of hamsters previously used in other studies. Thus, the incubation times for both infectious agents in Chinese golden hamsters has been precisely determined for the present studies. The text of "Methods" should be modified to specify this issue.

3. Figure 1 has been improved in the revised version. However, data showing the shift in mass of PrP species following PK digestion is not included. In addition, the quality of the Western immunoblot showing the brain of hamsters inoculated with 139-A agent has not been improved.

4. The resolution of Western blots showing tau proteins has not been improved.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.