Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of single nucleotide polymorphisms in microRNAs (hsa-miR-196a2 rs11614913 C/T) from Brazilian women with breast cancer

Version: 1 Date: 19 September 2012

Reviewer: Zhibin Hu

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed some of my initial comments. But I still have some concerns that need to be considered for authors.

1. I am afraid that the small sample size used in this study may lead to a false positive result. Generally, the effect size for a single variant that were suggested by GWAS may less than 1.5. I do not know how did the authors estimate the statistical power?

2. Meta-analysis by combining the results of this study with other reported studies may improve the reliability of the findings. Although the authors have discussed the results of meta-analysis in the Discussion section, I suggest they include this part as a section of results. Please also present the methodology and results (e.g., forest plot) in detail.

3. GWAS have identified dozens of loci for breast cancer. But the reported locus in this study was not among the GWAS findings. Please discuss this point in the new version.

4. The power and limitations of this study should be addressed, which may present readers more information on this study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.