Reviewer's report

Title: Matrix Metalloproteinase-9 (MMP-9) polymorphisms in patients with cutaneous malignant melanoma

Version: 1 Date: 14 December 2006

Reviewer: Tim Bishop

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript describes a detailed analysis of SNPs in the MMP-9 gene and investigation of the association with melanoma progression and/or melanoma risk factors. Overall the manuscript is well described including the patient cohort, the genetic methods and the statistical methods. Furthermore the Conclusion and the Discussion are in line with the statistical findings.

My only comments with regards to the presentation of the results are:
1) A table including the overall SNP frequencies for each of the variants would be helpful in terms of evaluating the informativeness of the study.
2) The analysis only reports single SNP analyses when in fact much of the information from such a study must come from consideration of haplotypes. The inclusion of haplotype analysis following the steps described for the single SNP analysis would provide a more definitive test of the role of this gene.
3) The small Tables containing the significant results could be summarised in a single Table which would stress that these have been specifically chosen because they represent the most “significant” findings of the study.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests