Reviewer's report

Title: The importance of iron in long-term survival of maintenance hemodialysis patients treated with epoetin-alpha and intravenous iron: analysis of 9.5 years of prospectively collected data

Version: 4 Date: 2 February 2009

Reviewer: Anatole Besarab

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed my concerns.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I am on the speaker's board for Amgen, Hoffman la Roche, Watson Pharma, and AMAG Pharma. I have been a consultant for all 4 companies.