Reviewer’s report

Title: Messenger RNA levels of podocyte-associated proteins in subjects with different degrees of glucose tolerance with or without nephropathy

Version: 1 Date: 12 August 2013

Reviewer: Jose Lopes de Faria

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) Introduction
Please clearly clarify what are the aims of the present study. Is it to compare the podocyte protein in the urine of normal subjects and diabetic patients? Is it to assess if podocyte proteins are present in the urine of prediabetic individuals? Is it to compare the difference in the presence of urinary podocyte proteins in type 1 and type 2 diabetic patients with nephropathy? I believe this is a very important issue and it should be presented considering the previously published articles. To this, I would suggest that the authors include in the Introduction section the following references: Ng DP et al. NDT 2011; 26:2508; Pätäri A. Diabetes 2003; 52:2969 and Jim B et al. PLoS One 2012; 7:e36041). These articles described the presence of nephrin in the urine of either type 1 or type 2 diabetic subjects. What is the gap in the literature that the authors believe they can investigate?

2) Methods
Lower age in control individuals compared with pre or diabetic subjects may be a confound factor.

3) Results
Why duration of diabetes was not included in the data analysis.

4) Discussion
It is too long and it should be focused on the findings of the paper.

Discretionary Revisions
Methods: how was “unstable renal function” assessed?
Results: sum of diabetic patients with NO, MI and MA is 103%.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

I declare that I have no competing interests.