Reviewer's report

Title: Gremlin induces cell proliferation and extra cellular matrix accumulation in mouse mesangial cells exposed to high glucose via the ERK1/2 pathway

Version: 2 Date: 14 November 2012

Reviewer: Phillip Kantharidis

Reviewer's report:

The authors have not adequately addressed my concerns about the osmotic control in figures 1a and 1b, as well as in figure 5a.

The point of the paper is to demonstrate that HG induces gremlin which then induces TGFβ and CTGF to mediate downstream effects commonly seen in nephropathy. The absence of an osmotic control in these figures is a serious omission in the manuscript and the controls should be included.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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