Reviewer's report

Title: Transplantation of Endothelial Progenitor Cells in Treating Rats with IgA Nephropathy

Version: 2 Date: 29 November 2013

Reviewer: Jonathan Barratt

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the use of endothelial progenitor cells in alleviating an animal model of IgAN.

The chosen animal model is not a widely used model of IgAN and I have concerns over how this model reflects human disease.

Major Compulsory Revisions

No other animal organs are described in the paper- I would like to see if the EPC entered any other organs, also did they enter non-diseased kidneys? In Fig 4 it is unclear whether "normal" is pre-injection of EPC or a normal kidney exposed to EPC - the authors need to clarify.

Was there any sign of other organ dysfunction in these rats—either due to the induction of IgAN or as a result of EPC injection?

Figure 6 is too small as presented to really discriminate any differences between groups- images need to be magnified significantly.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'