Reviewer's report

**Title:** Podocyte specific knock out of selenoproteins does not enhance nephropathy in streptozotocin diabetic C57BL/6 mice

**Version: 1 Date:** 5 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Giuseppe Pugliese

**Reviewer's report:**

The Authors used a knockout mouse model to test the hypothesis that loss of podocyte selenoproteins worsens diabetic nephropathy. To this end they choose the C57BL/6 mouse (which is resistant to diabetic nephropathy) injected with multiple low dose of streptozotocin-induced (which causes less severe diabetes than the single high dose). They found that the wild type mice show no sign of nephropathy and loss of podocyte selenoproteins does not induce the development of this complication.

The major limitations is this study are that:

1. Results do not extend to other mouse strains or, particularly, to animals with a longer duration or greater severity of diabetes; it is conceivable that the knockout mice could exhibit some degree of renal injury with a longer duration or greater severity of diabetes.

- No assessment of oxidative stress marker(s) within the kidney tissue is made; it would be interesting to verify whether local oxidative stress is exacerbated by loss of selenoproteins.

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’