Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of EIF2C1-4 and PIWIL1-4 in human colon carcinoma with tissue microarray

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2009

Reviewer: Jianming Chen

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In the manuscript 'Expression of EIF2C1-4 and PIWIL1-4 in human colon carcinoma with tissue microarray', Li et al. generated eight polyclonal antibodies against each of the eight human Ago family proteins respectively and performed tissue microarray with these antibodies to analyze expression levels of EIF2C1-4 and PIWIL1-4 in colon carcinoma specimens from 75 patients. They found the expression of all eight Ago family proteins increased significantly in colon carcinoma compared to neighboring normal tissue from most of the patients analyzed. The work is very interesting but the following minor essential revisions need to be made before acceptance:

1> The authors should provide the detailed information on specific peptides used as antigens, namely amino acid sequences for each antigen.

2> The specificity of the eight antibodies needs to be shown: evidence with both Western blots and immunohistology.

3> Impaired expression of SND1 and several miRNAs in colon cancer has been reported. The related ref. should be cited and the potential relationships among SND1, miRNAs, EIF2C1-4 and PIWIL1-4 should be discussed.

4> In general, the writing is clear and understandable. However the authors need to be more precise and professional. I list two sentences below and hope you will find the problems. Certainly not only these two sentences need to be corrected. I would suggest the authors to try hard to revise the entire manuscript.

'Currently there is no available recombinant Argonaute protein and it would be a considerable effort to generate recombinant human Argonaute proteins since they are known to be difficult to express.'

'The aim was to obtain a comprehensive survey of the expression of Argonaute proteins in colon carcinoma and identified proteins alterations that might contribute to neoplastic progression.'

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.