Reviewer's report

Title: Argonaute proteins: potential biomarkers for human colon cancer

Version: 3 Date: 28 October 2009

Reviewer: Kevin V Morris

Reviewer's report:

While this resubmission addresses some of the comments it neglects the crucial comment, which is to validate a role for the candidate Ago's in cancer. I still think the authors could easily make an attempt to see what effect their top candidate Agos are involved in cell cycle.

My comment thus still stands:

The authors should attempt to validate to what extent the Agos or PIWI are involved in cancer progression. One way to do this would be to suppress the respective Agos or PIWIs in colon cancer cell lines and determine what effect this has on the colon cancer cells division, metastasis, or overall fidelity. One could easily knockout the Agos or PIWIs using U1 adapters (Goraczniak, Behlke et al. 2009) or antisense ODNs. Such experiments would assist in supporting the notion that the Agos or PIWIs are somewhat functional in cancer cell fidelity.

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:

No competing interests