Reviewer’s report

Title: Argonaute proteins: potential biomarkers for human colon cancer

Version: 4 Date: 22 December 2009

Reviewer: Helge Taubert

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

I agree with the changes made by the authors.

But, even at application of logistic regression it is difficult to say that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 is associated with an increased risk of colon cancer. EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 can be surrogate markers and there could be many other factors affecting both what results finally in an increased colon cancer risk. You can only say that an increased expression of EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 is significantly associated with occurrence of colon cancer tissue compared with normal tissue (logistic regression; OR = 3.071, P = 0.005 and OR = 7.392, P < 0.001, respectively).

Please, change this in the abstract, on page 8 and page 11.

The following sentence is too absolute.

Furthermore, EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 might represent the novel colon cancer markers with early diagnostic significance.

I think you have to omit the word “the” that the sentence becomes: Furthermore, EIF2C1 and PIWIL2 might represent novel colon cancer markers with early diagnostic significance.

Please, change this in the abstract and in conclusion.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests