Reviewer’s report

Title: A profile of prognostic and molecular factors in European and Maori breast cancer patients

Version: 1 Date: 2 June 2010

Reviewer: Bjørn Ove Maehle

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Compulsory Revisions: 3: The women have been operated for breast cancer. Have they all been operated with a modified radical mastectomy with axillary lymph node dissection or have other surgical procedures been used? A statement to this point should be included in Methods (Breast cancer patients).

4: In the first part of Results # Breast cancer patient cohort # the meaning of the last sentence is not clear: Median survival was not reached.

5: In the same part of Results Figure 1 is given in brackets. Should it be Figure 1 and Figure 2 in brackets?

Discretionary Revisions: 1: Figure 2 shows the difference in disease-free days since surgery between Maori and European patients. After 500 days no more recurrences are seen in the Maori group, while the metastases continue to occur in the European group during the whole period. It would be of interest if the authors could comment on this seemingly increasing difference in risk.

2: This manuscript has been submitted in the year 2010. The last follow-up was in December 2007. Is it possible to extend the follow-up period?

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 interest.