Reviewer's report

Title: Expression pattern of matrix metalloproteinases in human gynaecological cancer cell lines

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2010

Reviewer: Rafael Fridman

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written and very useful paper, which describes in rigorous detail the expression of the 23 human MMPs at both the mRNA and protein level for 12 different gynecological cancer cell lines by RT-PCR and Western Blot. Overall, this study provides essential information on the expression of MMPs in these cells lines and as such this study will become an important reference for investigators interested in analyzing MMP expression.

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Although not a pre-condition for acceptance by this reviewer, a zymogram will be more informative for the gelatinases because it clearly detects the latent and active forms of these MMPs and it is by far more sensitive that western blots.

2. How were the antibodies evaluated in terms of specificity?

3. Any information or plans to measure about TIMP levels in these cells? At least a comment in this regard will be useful, as at the end the activity of MMPs is regulated by the levels of TIMPs.

4. A table describing the cell lines used will be very useful.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The paper needs serious English editing.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.