Reviewer's report

Title: Identification of differentially expressed genes using annealing control primer system in stage III serous ovarian carcinoma

Version: 5 Date: 1 September 2010

Reviewer: Jeremy Chien

Reviewer's report:

Major revision

Please discuss the limitation of the use of ovary in the study. In particular, please discuss how one could distinguish tumor features from normal features. For example, "apoptotic inhibitory processes" identified to be upregulated in tumor could also be interpreted as "apoptotic inhibitory processes" down-regulated in normal ovary and perhaps associated with regressing corpus luteum or ovary. If so, could it be possible that other biological pathways identified in the study, such as immune response, are features of this particular ovary in question rather than the features of serous tumors?

Minor revision

Please indicate the grade for all stage III serous ovarian cancer specimens used in the study. Since high-grade and low-grade serous cancer are distinct entities, clarification on the grade of tumors included in this study is needed.

TFG is misspelled as TGF in some instances.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interests.