Reviewer's report

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

Version: 6 Date: 7 October 2010

Reviewer: Jeremy Chien

Reviewer's report:

Authors have discussed a serious limitation of their studies with regard to the use of whole ovary as a comparative control for gene expression analysis in primary ovarian tumors.

Minor comments:

1. In this revision, authors have clarified that all tumors used in the study were high-grade serous carcinomas of the ovary. In light of this fact and recent emerging evidence suggesting that fimbrial epithelium of the oviduct may serve as a possible point-of-origin for high-grade serous cancer (Crum et al, 2007. The distal fallopian tube: a new model for pelvic serous carcinogenesis, Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol), authors should discuss the use of these tissues as normal counterparts in future studies. In addition, ovarian surface epithelium and fimbrial epithelium of the fallopian tube can be obtained using cytobrush, and these samples can be used directly in downstream experiments without the need for short-term or long-term cultures. Authors should explore these approaches in future studies.

2. Please clarify what is E-value in Table 2.

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