Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 3 (IGF2BP3) expression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma correlates with poor survival

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 22 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Ross C Smith

**Reviewer’s report:**

1. This paper studies the IGF2BP3 protein expression in a tissue micro-array of pancreatic cancer which has been classified on the WHO criteria and assesses this protein’s ability to indicate prognosis. The rationale for the use of this protein as a marker of prognosis is clearly stated. The lack of expression of IGF2BP3 in normal tissue is a benefit for the study.

2. The study is retrospective and does not include other prognostic factors such as stage which can be important even in resected cancers. The importance of the WHO classification on the patients outcomes was not stated and the paper would have gained by a multivariate analysis of the influence of IGF2PB3 and the WHO classification.

3. The criteria for assessment of IGF2BP3 appear sound although variability of the IHC technique could be stated.

4. The manuscript is a simple and well constructed manuscript.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

6. The manuscript indicates a marked influence on survival while the survival curves do separate they are not widely separate and do not reach the abscissa.

7. This study does present a balanced review of the literature.

8. The title and abstract are representative of the paper and the English expression is clear.

**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’