Reviewer's report

Title: Plexin-B1 silencing inhibits ovarian cancer migration and invasion

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2010

Reviewer: Guido Valente

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Major compulsory revisions: 1) The authors have examined tumor tissues obtained from surgical specimens by immunohistochemical methods, and cell lines by RT-PCR and Western blot. This dichotomy can lead to a difficult interpretation of the results, especially in borderline tumors which show a faint immunohistochemical staining (see Figure 1C). For these reasons, the authors should support immunohistochemistry by RT-PCR (using routine material) at least in some cases of borderline tumors and carcinomas, to demonstrate the presence of Plexin-B1 mRNA.

2) The WHO classification of ovarian tumors should be used to define, in the Methods and in the Results, the different histological types of tumors included in the study.

The terms “borderline carcinoma” and “malignant carcinomas” (for instance in page 9 and in footnote of the table 1) are uncorrect. The authors should precise which histological grading system has been formulated.

3) The authors have carried out a semiquantitative evaluation of the positive neoplastic cells, but they did not give any information about staining intensity. They should reconsider each case combining the percentage of positive cells and staining intensity, using the well-standardized Hybrid-Score system.

Minor essential revisions

1) Figure 1-C: an inset at higher magnification could be useful to better make out the reaction product.

2) Background page 4: “this is the first report examining Plexin B-1 in ovarian carcinomas”: this sentence should be deleted, since at least one paper has been meanwhile published on this topic (Valente et al, Cell. Oncol. 31: 423-436, 2009).

3) Several spelling mistakes are distributed in the text.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests’ below.