Reviewer's report

Title: The Colorectal cancer disease-specific transcriptome facilitates the discovery of more biologically and clinically relevant information

Version: 3 Date: 8 February 2010

Reviewer: gaelle rondeau

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The aim of the study was first to compare two different microarrays platforms and second examine the clinical relevance of a disease-specific transcriptome.

Minor Essential Revisions

The number of pathways detected by each platform is quite different (10 for the Plus2 array and 16 for the DSA array with only 7 in common)

Can this be explained by the fact that the two platforms show a lot of unique probesets, i.e. can the missing pathway be in the unique probeset of one of the platform?

When duplicate or triplate is used in the text, it is not mentioned if it is a technical or biological replicate.

How many sense, antisense and SAS pairs are in common between clinical samples, between clinical samples and resistant experiment, and between clinical samples and sensitive experiment?

Discretionary Revisions

List of acronyms used in the table.

It is not mention anywhere in the text but does the sense, antisense probesets show similar intensity?

Page 14, “e” is missing on “expression” line15

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests