Reviewer's report

Title: Collagen induced arthritis increases secondary metastasis in MMTV-PyV MT mouse model of mammary cancer

Version: 4 Date: 29 June 2011

Reviewer: chris kemp

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

the authors need to show at least representative raw data for the levels of cytokines and for the migration results.

the authors need to explain and identify what cell types are found in "inflammation" in the different tissues.

the authors need to identify what strain background the PyMT was originally on and if not C57 BL6, how many backcrosses to B6. This very critical (see work by Kent Hunter).

the authors need to prove that in (almost unbelievable ten fold increase in proliferation as seen by PCNA) is coming from the actual tumor cells as opposed to non tumor cells. this would make a massive increase in growth rate of the tumor. the methods of quantifying are somewhat indirect. (table 1) I would prefer actual counting of positive cells per field by experienced pathologist.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

- Discretionary Revisions

These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'