Reviewer’s report

Title: Exposure to statins and risk of common cancers: a series of nested case-control studies

Version: 1 Date: 10 June 2011

Reviewer: Michael J GOnyeau

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. I believe the work has significant merit and is worthy of publication, and I offer the following comments meant to strengthen the article.

The question posed by the authors is well defined, the data seem sound and the discussion section and conclusion are in keeping with the results. Overall, I found the manuscript very clear and well written and easily understandable.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Exposure variables: why was the minimum number of statin prescriptions set at 2 to be considered a statin user? This seems potentially low over a 60 month period to make clinically meaningful associations with cancer development if a patient were only taking a statin for 2/60 months (3% of the time).

2. Statin Exposure: number of prescriptions and months on statin: may want to state in previous section the length of available prescriptions (i.e. does a prescription for a statin imply a 30 day course, or does it imply more than 30 days in some cases, or does it imply the time that the prescription remains active and is available for refills?)

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Cyclo-oxygenase misspelled in abstract

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